

THE TIMES 1785-1985

Tomorrow

By private fiat
Times Profile of
Giovanni Agnelli,
chairman of Fiat

Slow going
Merrily Harpur on
learning to take her
tortoise seriously

Friend writes
James Fenton reviews
the early letters of
Sigmund Freud

At the finish
Stuart Jones reports on
England's crucial game in
Helsinki

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio competition prize was shared by three winners yesterday. Mr Stanley Colley, Halesowen, Surrey; Mrs Catherine Larthe, Gloucester and Mr William H. Stanley, Eastham, Wirral, each received £666. Portfolio list page 22; how to play, information service back page.

On Saturday, there will be £22,000 to be won - £20,000 in the weekly competition and £2,000 in the daily

Five years for soccer 'general'

Leslie Muranyi, described as the "general" of an organized army of football hooligans, was jailed for five years at the Central Criminal Court yesterday after admitting riot.

Another man was jailed for four years, and 23 others given prison or youth custody sentences.

Foster mother weeps at inquiry

Mrs Gabrielle Probert, who fostered Jasmine Beckford for eight months, wept repeatedly at the independent inquiry as she spoke of the day the girl and her younger sister, Louise, were taken away to live with their parents.

All-Irish hero

Barry McGuigan, who challenges for the world featherweight boxing title next month, is a man for whom a united Ireland is more of a reality than a dream.

Expulsion threat

More than 20,000 Sri Lankans, Tamil face expulsion from a "separatist hide-out" zone, under a plan to stiffen security after the Anuradhapura massacre.

Hong Kong fear

Fears about the treatment Hong Kong will receive after 1997 have been aroused by the riot in Peking when the colony's football team beat China in a World Cup qualifying match.

Leading article, page 15

SPECIAL REPORT

An icebreaker in the Thames, an exhibition opening at Greenwich today - Finland is celebrating its role as one of the world's great maritime nations.

Pages 23 to 25

ENIGMA

The second clue in this week's Codename Enigma competition is in the back page information service. This is your opportunity to win two flights to Barbados and £1,000. There are also 25 valuable British Telecom runner-up prizes.

Leader page, 15

Letters: On kerb-crawling, from Mr M. Parris, MP; jobs, from Mr J. W. Williams

Leading articles: Tebbit and the Tories; Green Paper and Education; football and China

Features, pages 12-14

Pros and cons of the higher education Green Paper; Israel's prisoner exchanges anger; mid-term Tory realigns. Spectrum

paid decisions on animal rights. Wednesday Page: by Range Rover from Jo'burg

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Dr Peter Inglis, Lord Donnet of Balgay

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Joseph puts surprise new offer to teachers

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, in a surprise move last night took the first positive initiative in the teachers' pay dispute. He offered teachers more money next year if they agree to a new contract including appraisal of performance.

The move comes after meetings at 10 Downing Street between the Prime Minister and senior ministers to talk about the teachers' pay dispute, the Government's hard line on it, and the strikes which have been disrupting children's education for the past three months.

There is dissatisfaction in Conservative ranks about the Government's handling of the dispute and the effect it is thought to have had on the share county elections this month.

Yesterday 22 Conservatives were among 30 MPs who signed a Commons motion urging the Government to negotiate "in a spirit of goodwill" with the teachers.

The government initiative comes in letters from Sir Keith to the leaders of the local authority employers' side, Mr Philip Merdale, chairman of the education committee of the Association of County Councils, and Mrs Nicky Harrison, chairman of the education committee at the Association of Metropolitan Authorities.

In the letters Sir Keith says that extra money could be provided for teachers' pay in 1986-87 provided that was firm agreement in principle by October to a new deal involving better promotion prospects for teachers and a new contract.

Parliament, page 14

Football levy board urged after fire

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

A new organization to channel money raised from football into ground improvements is thought likely by ministers to emerge from the Bradford City fire.

A football levy board, along the lines of the Horncastle Betting Levy Board, set up in 1963 for the betterment of racing, is favoured inside the Government as a way of preventing disasters and stopping up to 40 of the lower division clubs going out of business in the next decade.

In the immediate aftermath of Bradford ministers are concentrating on making grounds safe before the next football season starts in August.

An extensive programme of fire checks is under way and surveyors appointed by the Football Grounds Improvement Trust are rapidly assessing the costs of bringing third and fourth division grounds up to the new standards required by the Government.

Detailed consideration has yet to be given to the longer term but ministers are agreed that the situation which allowed the 53 people to be killed when the Bradford stand caught fire, cannot be allowed to continue, and a levy scheme is being canvassed with enthusiasm.

In horseracing a percentage of

Brittan heckled by jail officers

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, faced heckling for the second time in a week when he addressed the annual conference of the Prison Officers' Association in Portsmouth yesterday.

After a stormy reception at the Police Federation conference a week ago, he was greeted by stony silence and then sporadic shouts and occasional laughter from delegates angry at the Prison Department's financial policies.

At the end of the speech, during which he announced a crash programme to head off potential trouble in the prison system, there was muted applause and some slow hand clapping.

Mr Philip Hill, secretary of the Chelmsford branch of the association, said later that his chairman, Mr Ivan Ross, was among about a dozen delegates who walked out as soon as Mr Brittan began speaking.

Mr Ross was protesting at the way financial cuts are being imposed at the prisons. He said: "The cuts are going to put staff and security at risk."

Mr Brittan told the conference that another 240 officers were to be recruited into the service immediately. They would be posted to prison and remand centres where pressure was particularly high.

He is also to provide within a few weeks up to 1,000 extra prison places to meet the record numbers of prisoners, at present about 46,514. He is also considering whether there is scope for reducing the burden imposed on staff by the extra

"No discipline. The government is cutting prisons as if we were higher education."

facilities given to remand prisoners.

The number of remand prisoners has also risen steeply to more than 9,500.

Mr Brittan, knew, and conference knew that at a meeting on May 7 Mr Colin Stanger, chairman of the Prison Officers' Association, had warned him that members would decide to cut the jail population to what prisoners were officially supposed to hold "unless he took some action urgently to ease the pressure".

The police cells would be full within a month. Mr Steel told conference the message should be clear: "do nothing and the prison service will explode at the seams".

If the prisoners decided they had had enough then there would be "desperate problems".

He added: "Immense unrest will be a constant feature of 1985 unless something dramatic is done about the prison population and the conditions in which we are keeping inmates."

Officers would not allow the public to be threatened by inmate violence, although it would probably be at the expense of injury to officers.

Mr Brittan said that more

Continued on back page, col 6

Critics savage Joseph college plans

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education yesterday met a barrage of criticism from educationalists and MPs of all parties over his proposals on the future of universities and polytechnics.

Mr Cileas Radice, Opposition spokesman on education, said the Green Paper was a miserable flop. Mr Enoch Powell, Official Unionist MP for South Down, said it was "barbaric".

Sir Keith's critics were concerned that student numbers

would be cut by at least 70,000

after 1990, that the Green Paper talks of closures of departments of institutions, and that it contains a relentless emphasis on the need for universities to meet the manpower needs of industry.

Mr Maurice Shock, chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals and vice-chancellor of Leicester University, called on the Government to think again. He said: "This is not the way to

improve our competitiveness

and quality of life."

Mr Peter Dawson, general secretary of the College Lecturers' union, said the Green Paper demonstrated that there is no effective plan for higher education into the 1990s.

In the Commons, Mr Robert Rhodes James, Conservative MP for Cambridge, told Sir Keith that universities and polytechnics could not accept a policy of contraction. Page 2

Leading article, page 15

Thatcher promises autumn vote on Commons TV

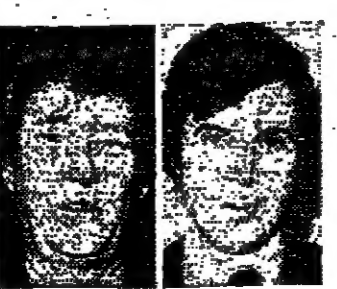
By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

Televising the House of Commons within the next year became a probability last night after the Prime Minister promised MPs a vote on the issue in the autumn.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, once a fierce opponent of allowing cameras into the chamber, is now known to support their introduction and that could prove crucial when the debate, in government time, takes place after the summer recess.

The measure failed to become law because the Government would not assist its progress and ministers felt the narrow majority was not a firm expression of the House's will.

Mrs Thatcher was quizzed at Prime Minister's question time by Mr Jonathan Aitken,



TV hopes: Mr Mitchell (left) and Mr Aitken.

Conservative MP for Thanet South and a director of TV-am, who quoted a survey carried in The Times yesterday which revealed 76 per cent of the



The Princesses of Wales visiting the recession-hit North-east with a tour of Tyne and Wear.

Palumbo's City tower rejected

By Charles Kneve, Architectural Correspondent

The controversial plan to build a 290ft office block designed by the late Miles van der Rohe at Mansion House, in the City of London, has been rejected by the Government.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, will announce his decision this afternoon.

Last night, Mr Peter Palumbo, aged 49, the property developer who has spent 26 years and £10 million acquiring the site, was not available to comment.

Conservationists opposed to the plan, which required the demolition of nine listed buildings, including Mappin and Webb, welcomed the news.

The 21-storey tower contained 175,000 sq ft of offices and the plan provided for a new square with an underground shopping centre. The Prince of Wales described the scheme last year as "another giant glass stump better suited to downtown Chicago than the City of London".

Although rejecting the tower, it is believed that Mr Jenkin may have paved the way for Mr Palumbo to commission a new building for the site by allowing him to demolish the listed buildings.

Last month The Times disclosed that the Prime Minister was taking a keen interest in the decision.

The £75 million development became one of the most controversial planning issues since the war. Details were first released by Mr Rudolph Palumbo, Mr Peter Palumbo's father, in 1968.

The City of Commons Council of the City of London approved the application in principle, but said that the developer must first acquire the whole site.

At a two month public inquiry last year it was supported by Mr Michael Manser, president of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and most of the architectural establishment. It was opposed by the City, Greater London Council, Royal Fine Art Commission, the Victorian Society and Save Britain's Heritage.

Mr Stephen Marks, the inquiry inspector, recommended its rejection.

History of plan, back page

MPs clash on Special Branch

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

The Commons inquiry into the Special Branch ended yesterday as it began, with a bitter party political row and claims that the MPs' final report was a "whitewash".

At a bad-tempered Westminster press conference where members of the home affairs select committee produced its findings, the air was thick with accusations and recriminations.

Conservative MPs were said to have deliberately ignored critical evidence and Labour MPs were charged with attempting to blacken the reputation of the Special Branch.

As disclosed in The Times last month, the majority report made by the select committee's seven Conservatives MPs says that the Special Branch does not justify public criticism and performs "an essential public service".

But a minority report, drawn up by the Mr David Winnick, Labour MP for Walsall, North, and supported by party colleagues on the committee, expresses serious criticisms and calls for an independent commission of inquiry into the Special Branch.

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour Party leader, led the criticism of the majority report, describing it as "a complete cop-out", which did not answer any of the questions.

Mr Winnick, chairman of the Tribune group of Labour MPs, said: "The majority report is a whitewash and really could have been written by the Home Office itself."

But launching the report, Sir Edward Gardner, Conservative MP for Fylde and the select committee chairman, strongly denied the inquiry had been abortive.

"This inquiry, whatever may be said about it, is not a whitewash. It was never intended to be a whitewash."

The National Council for Civil Liberties, which gave evidence to the inquiry, said the committee's assurances that the public had nothing to fear from Special Branch activities were meaningless, because major areas of Special Branch work, involving the security services, were excluded from the investigation.

It could take up to 18 months for MPs to decide whether they want cameras permanently, rather than purely on an experimental basis and so supporters of televised proceedings in the Lords think it would be inappropriate to put the issue into cold storage, pending a final Commons verdict.

Parliament, page 4

Israelis split on amnesty for militant Jews

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Israel's fragile national unity Government is badly split over right-wing demands that all Jews imprisoned in Israel for terrorism should be granted an amnesty to balance the release this week of more than 1,000 Arab top-security prisoners.

Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Deputy Prime Minister and leader of the powerful Likud block, announced yesterday that he supported the amnesty call and would be raising it in the Cabinet, which is almost equally divided on the issue.

Mr Shamir was backed by a number of Cabinet members, including Mr Ariel Sharon, Minister for Trade and Industry, who said it was inconceivable that "terrible killers can be released while members of the Jewish underground remain behind bars". He said he was determined to provoke a Cabinet crisis on the question.

Extra-parliamentary pressure for the release of the Jewish militants increased as wives and mothers of the 18 underground members now on trial began a hunger strike outside the Parliament building.

Leaders of the Labour Party, the other main group in the Government, declared their opposition to any interference in the judicial process to secure the release of Jews charged with violent crimes against Palestinian civilians.

National rejoicing at the return early yesterday of the three Israeli prisoners of war was short lived as the country plunged into a fierce national debate about the high price paid by Israel.

The deal was staunchly defended by Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Labour Defence Minister, who delivered a stern warning to any enemies of Israel trying to capitalize on it.

Mr Rabin said he would propose to the Government and the Israeli legal authorities that if a citizen or a soldier was kidnapped in an effort to negotiate the release of more murderers then all those who released in exchanges should be rearrested.

His warning was directed at more than 700 prisoners who chose to return on Monday to their homes in the occupied territories and Arab zones of Israel. Palestinian sources also

believe it is my responsibility to bring back home every soldier who is sent to war by this Government, even though the price is high."

Among ordinary Israelis there was dismay and anger at the identities of the prisoners involved in the deal became known after censorship was lifted.

Jewish settlers and bereaved relatives of victims of the freed men threatened vengeance. Late on Monday night, shots were fired in the occupied town of Hebron as armed settlers attempted to break up an Arab celebration of the releases.

It was reported that settlement groups are secretly compiling lists and photographs of the released men for distribution to Jews throughout the West Bank. Israeli security forces in the occupied areas were put on special alert to deal with any new threat of violence.

Although four Israeli soldiers are still missing in action as a result of the Lebanon war, Monday's complex exchange deal is regarded by Red Cross sources as having freed the last known Israeli prisoners still in Arab hands.

GENEVA: The cost of transporting 394 mainly Palestinian prisoners by air to Geneva on Monday for the exchange was covered by Israel, the International Committee of the Red Cross pointed out yesterday (Alain McGregor writes). Similarly, the Syrian-backed F.P.L.R. Front for the Liberation of Palestine arranged to fly the three Israeli prisoners from Damascus to Geneva.

Doctor denies Sellafield 'plutonium food' claims

Claims that doctors and scientists considered giving food contaminated with plutonium to children living near the nuclear reprocessing plant at Sellafield in Cumbria were denied yesterday.

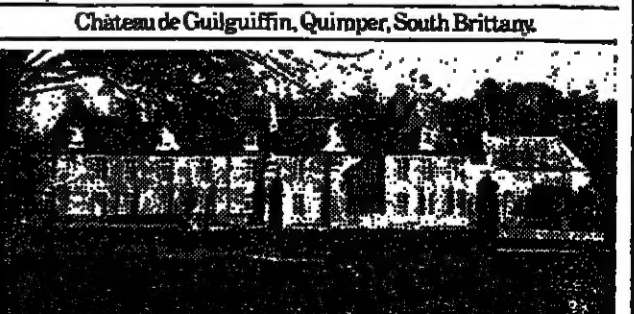
The environmental pressure group Greenpeace told the Commons select committee on the environment last night that the idea had been examined at a Department of Health meeting in October.

But Dr John Terrell, West Cumbria's district medical officer, said somebody at the meeting had simply observed that it could be important if children, who had eaten contaminated shellfish, could be studied. There had never been any suggestion that they should be deliberately fed such food.

Dr Terrell added that the degree of contamination in shellfish was in any case extremely small.

BRITTANY'S BLISS

Chateau de Guilguifin, Quimper, South Brittany.



Daily Telegraph

ONE OF THE most successful time-share operations in Great Britain has been that at Court Barton, close to Salcombe, in Devon, although the timeshare co-soldier Michael Groom, whose pleasure of staff has helped make it a success, prefers the term "holiday investment".

Owners of weeks there have a stake in the freedom and at the end of the term, originally 28 years, each shareholder has a vote in the future of the resort. Either it will be sold and the assets shared, or it will continue.

Now Groom is taking his expertise to Southern Brittany where, close to the ancient city of Quimper, and not far from the sea, stands a chateau de plaisance - the Chateau de Guilguifin. A similar development to that at Court Barton, with identical corporate structure, is being planned at Court Barton, where owners are taking pride in a recent Civic Trust Award.

David Hooper, Daily Telegraph, Friday, December 20th 1984

DEVON'S HEAVEN

Shares are offered for sale in "Chateau de Guilguifin SA" and in "Court Barton Property PLC". Sponsored by The Guidehouse Group PLC. Share prices from £1500-£2500. Special weekend inspection flights to "Guilguifin" are available.

This advertisement is not a Prospectus and does not constitute an invitation to purchase shares. For a copy of both Prospectuses, on the basis of which alone applications will be accepted, please apply at any time to Court Barton Developments Ltd., South Hams, Near Kingsbridge, South Devon TQ7 3EH. Telephone: Kingsbridge (0548) 561919. Telex: 42702.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____

Wide east-west disparities in pay and prosperity show in regional trends

By David Walker, Social Policy Correspondent

From Lincolnshire to Kent, the eastern counties are shown in the latest edition of the government's *Regional Trends* to be buoyant, healthy and prosperous, suggesting that in the 1980s the east-west division may have become as important as the split between north and south.

In East Anglia population is growing faster than anywhere else in the United Kingdom. Crime is low. Ownership of such consumer durables as refrigerators, freezers and dishwashers is high. In the East Midlands, in spite of its large manufacturing base unemployment is well below the UK average; government spending on social security benefits in the region is lower than anywhere in the UK except East Anglia.

The South-east remains a kind of locomotive for the economy of the nation as a whole with 30 per cent of the population producing more than a third of the gross domestic product.

But *Regional Trends*, published today, gives an ambiguous answer to whether the inhabitants of the east of England are happier. The suicide rate among men in East Anglia is above average, perhaps due to the depressive effect of the flat fens.

On the economic front *Regional Trends* illustrates how Britain can at the same time be starkly divided: in the 10 years to 1983 gross domestic product per head in the northern region fell from 91.1 per cent to 89.6 per cent of the national average, yet the regions can remain alike. For example, the average weekly earnings of both men and women show comparatively little variation north and south.

In the North, the region takes in Tyne and Wear, Cumbria, Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland, men were earning £167.5 a week in April 1984. In the North west it was £171.9 while in East Anglia it was £166.9. That could be due to the effects of union bargaining over wages, which tends to take place at the national level.

Divergences in regional prosperity are, however, marked. Of those men unemployed in October last in the South west 20 per cent had been out of a job for more than two years. But in Northern Ireland nearly 37 per cent had been jobless for the same period. One third of unemployed male workers in the West Midlands were counted as long-term unemployed.

The economic fortunes of the West Midlands have worsened significantly in recent years. The region's gdp per head was a decade ago noticeably above the national average; it was the second highest regional gdp per head in 1974. In 1983 it was lower than for all the other English regions and Scotland, standing at 88.1 per cent of the national average.

Of all regions, Wales appears the most strike prone. Between 1979 and 1983 there were 1,144 days lost for every 1,000 Welsh employees. This contrasted with 247 in East Anglia, 417 in Northern Ireland and a UK average of 495.

As well as enjoying relative economic prosperity, the eastern counties also offer enhanced "quality of life".

In the North the civilian working population has fallen by 5 per cent since 1979, but that drop in the number of people available for work has not stopped the North consistently coming top of the British league table for unemployment

(Northern Ireland's rates are consistently higher).

The East Midlands has the highest regional proportion of employees in manufacturing, after the West Midlands, but the fact contrasts with the relatively low unemployment in the East Midlands counties of Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire.

On the quality of life front there are some fascinating puzzles in the relative health of the regions. In Northern Ireland, where serious crime rates are paradoxically low, the death rate from cancer is markedly less than the UK average.

Health is linked to diet. A connection is often made between the Scot's high rates of death from stroke and heart disease and a strong diet featuring considerably less fruit and vegetables than elsewhere. Oddly, the tables in *Regional Trends* show that Scots shoppers do not get good value for money. Scots eat 2lb 5oz of meat and sausage a week and pay £2.62 for it. The people of the North-west, paying about the same amount, consume 2lb 8oz.

Champion fish eaters are the inhabitants of the counties in the northern region, Yorkshire and Humbersides; this area shows a marked regional predilection for cakes and biscuits, too.

Regional Trends is helpful as a guide to the moral differences between the regions. It shows, for example, how the North-west has the highest regional percentage of illegitimate births. The lowest percentage is in Northern Ireland.

Regional Trends 20 (Stationery Office: £17.50).



Signing on: Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, and Dr David Owen, of the SDP, joining forces at the Commons yesterday to support a declaration calling for a fair deal for youth on housing and jobs.

Support for earnings related pensions

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

A poll on the public's attitudes towards the welfare state has found clear support for the state earnings-related pension scheme (Serps), for women rather than men to be paid benefits aimed at children, and for national insurance benefits to be paid as of right rather than means-tested.

The poll, commissioned by the two biggest Civil Service unions and published yesterday, led to the unions, whose members will have to implement any changes to social security, to call on Mrs Margaret Thatcher to put the Government plans to the electorate at the next general election.

Mr Alistair Graham, general secretary of the Civil and Public Services Association and Mr Gerry Gillman, general secretary of the Society of Civil and Public Servants, said the poll showed that the Government's plans conflicted with the majority views of the British people. The union leaders said that to press ahead with fundamental changes, which would undermine the principles and nature of the welfare state, without a mandate from the British people, would be a serious erosion of the principles of parliamentary democracy.

Minister acted unlawfully

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, acted unlawfully in changing housing benefit regulations without proper consultation, the High Court ruled yesterday.

The changes, rushed through last December, were aimed at stopping claims that could have added up to £190 million to the housing benefit bill.

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities, which brought the action, said yesterday that it was given only six days to consult on one change and five days and incomplete details on the other.

Mr Justice Webster said Mr Fowler had failed in his duty to consult properly, but that the regulations would remain in force. He granted the AMA 80 per cent of its costs, estimated at between £40,000 and £45,000.

The judge said he was not laying down guidelines for future consultation, but in the present case the matter had not been of such urgency that the association should not have been given time to consult its members and give a considered opinion which might have been useful to Mr Fowler.

£500 fine paid by print union

The National Graphical Association is expected to disclose at the High Court in Birmingham today that it has paid a £500 fine for contempt of court.

It paid the fine on May 14 after its ban on material from Precision Colour Printing, of which the parent company, the Express & Star at Wolverhampton, is in dispute with the NGA over new technology.

Thatcher backs take-overs at pits

By Anthony Bevins Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister said yesterday that the Government would welcome a takeover of individual pits by miners' co-operatives.

Mrs Thatcher told the Commons that both she and Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, recognized that some miners wanted a more direct stake in their collieries, and she added: "This is a development that we in principle would welcome."

She was responding to a question by Mr Patrick McNair-Wilson, Conservative MP for New Forest, about a miners' bid to take over the loss-making Emley Moor colliery near Barnsley, which is to close at the end of the year.

The executive of the pit deputing union Nacods is expected to meet tomorrow in Doncaster to review the first week of an overtime ban over pit closures and there is speculation that talks with the National Coal Board might ensue (Paul Routledge writes).

The board was last night continuing to insist that negotiations could not restart unless the deputies call off or suspend the ban.

Miners' leaders walked out of a pit review meeting yesterday before coal board officials could confirm that their colliery is to close. The board is sending letters to unions stating there is no justification to keep open Bates colliery at Blyth, Northumberland.

EEC 'failed to protect Britain'

The European Commission in Brussels broke a code of professional secrecy when it disclosed the identity of a Briton whose evidence ended the price-fixing practices of Hoffman-La Roche, the pharmaceutical company, Mr David Vaughan, QC, told the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg yesterday.

The name of Mr Stanley Adams, of Thames Ditton, Surrey, came out during inquiries into his allegations made in 1973, and he was jailed under Swiss laws controlling commercial information.

Mr Adams, aged 57, a former manager of Hoffman-La Roche headquarters in Basel, Switzerland, is suing the Commission for £500,000 damages. He claims the Commission failed to protect him by showing documents to Roche, which enabled the company to identify him, and to invoke Swiss secrecy laws.

Mr Vaughan asked the court to reject a Commission submission that he was in breach of confidentiality when he gave to Mr Adams when it was clear they were bound by an obligation "without expiry of time".

The Commission claims that whatever the facts, Mr Adams' legal action is outside a five-year time limit.

A verdict is expected in October.

Four fire survivors sought by police

By Peter Davenport

Detectives in Bradford are trying to trace four spectators who survived the fire in the main stand at Valley Parade football ground.

The four were occupying seats P143 to P146 in G block. The police search follows an elaborate reconstruction in which 69 survivors were filmed occupying chairs set out to resemble the seating arrangements in the main stand.

After the reconstruction police have almost certainly ruled out a smoke bomb as the cause of the blaze.

Det Supt Kevin Cooper, who is leading the investigation, said yesterday: "While the operation was not totally conclusive it does considerably weaken the theory that a missile was thrown in G block."

Officials of the Bradford Disaster Appeal said yesterday that donations had now reached £1,250,000, including £10,000 from the US Ambassador to Britain.

Police are preparing a report for the Director of Public Prosecutions after alleged corruption by turnstile operators at Saturday's FA Cup Final at Wembley Stadium. Scotland Yard confirmed yesterday.

Hurd upset over police rivalry

A controversy between the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the Garda developed yesterday in the wake of the Provisional IRA bomb attack in which Co Down which killed four police officers (Richard Ford writes).

Mr Douglas Hurd, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, is clearly embarrassed at the personal hostility between the two chiefs, Sir John Hermon of the RUC an Commissioner Lawrence Wren of the Garda, who have not met for more than two years.

He said it should be a "matter of course" that the two men, facing similar problems, met Mr Hurd's admission that there was room for improvement in security on the border to make it more methodical.

Left lose battle for safe seat

Left-wingers have lost the nomination battle for Labour's seat in Glasgow, Glasgow, Provost Mr James Wray, a Strathclyde councillor, beat Mr James Cameron, a social worker and the far left candidate, by one vote. The sitting MP, Mr Hugh Brown, is to retire at the next election.

Steel plant union seeks TUC help

Union leaders at British Steels' Ravenscroft works, near Motherwell, Strathclyde, asked the Scottish TUC yesterday to back their campaign for £30 million investment to make the plant the most technically advanced steelworks in Europe.

US accident shaped anti-nuclear views

By Pat Healy

A nuclear accident precipitated the commitment to the anti-nuclear movement of Ms Meg Beresford, who is expected to be confirmed as the next general secretary of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament when its national executive meets on June 1.

Ms Beresford was visiting the United States in 1979 when the nuclear power station at Three Mile Island had a leak, and residents were moved away until the area was declared safe.

Ms Beresford returned to Britain shocked by the incident, abandoned the PhD thesis on the development of the legal profession in eighteenth century New York which she had been working on at Oxford university, and threw herself full-time into the anti-nuclear movement.

She became secretary of the Southern region of CND in 1980 and helped to form Campaign Atom, a vigorous local CND group in Oxford.

In the following year she became organizing secretary of European Nuclear Disarmament (Emnd), an new organiza-

tion which has placed more emphasis on the need to forge links between Eastern and Western anti-nuclear groups than has CND, although the latter is committed to the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact and Nato.

Ms Beresford's work for End has led to speculation that CND will undergo a policy shift when she becomes general secretary. That is denied by CND, who say that the incoming general secretary will be an administrator concerned with the day-to-day work of the organization, and with staff welfare in particular.

That is a role to which Ms Beresford seems well suited. She was first elected a vice-chair of CND in 1983 and has interpreted her role as being an internal one.

Like all other staff at CND, Ms Beresford will be paid the flat rate salary of £7,932.

Her predecessor, Mr Bruce Kent, is to continue in his public role as an honorary vice-president, and will stand for election next year as a vice-chair of CND.

Foster mother tells of 'desperation'

By Tony Samstag

Mrs Gabrielle Probert, who fostered Jasmine Bedford for eight months, went repeatedly yesterday as she spoke of the day the child and her younger sister, Louise, were taken away to live with their parents.

On the day the children were taken, she told the independent inquiry at Brent Town Hall while she was in Brent council care, of the night "I kept looking at them. Then I phoned Jeremy Burns (the adoption officer). I was begging on the phone. 'Please, they're coming. Please stop them. I felt so desperate'."

Maurice Bedford, the child's stepfather, and Beverly Lorrington, both aged 25, were jailed last month in connection with the death of the child, aged four, while in the care of Brent.

Mrs Probert said that during their last week together, she played games with the children to accustom them to the idea of going home. After they had gone, she and her husband, Peter, had often driven to the Beckfords' home in Kensal Rise, north London, hoping to catch a glimpse of the children.

Jasmine Bedford was just one of 240 child abuse cases on the books of Brent social services in the early 1980s. The hearing continues today.

Education Green Paper

University links with industry urged

By Lucy Hodges Education Correspondent

Universities are told to encourage the entrepreneurial spirit and to beware of "anti-business snobbery", in a Green Paper on higher education, published yesterday.

Standards must be raised and money better spent, and universities must learn to respond quickly to the manpower needs of industry, according to the 42-page document, which aims to present government thinking for the next decade.

But these things will have to be done with less money - a real cut of 2 per cent a year - and with the prospect that "some institutions of higher education will need to be closed or merged at some point during the next 10 years in line with the declining number of 18-year-olds."

The paper says that research should be concentrated in strong departments. "Greater concentration and selectivity may mean that some departments or even whole universities will lose research funding from the University Grants Committee."

The paper, which has taken two years to produce, contains no recommendations as such and is broadly a restatement of government policy on higher education, as executed by the UGC. It does not provide the policy framework within which universities can plan for the future which was recommended by the Jarrett report last month.

Student unions and freedom of speech on campuses are issues close to the heart of Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education.

The Green Paper says: "Many unions still give grounds for concern because their policies are determined by a minute proportion of the union membership."

"Only the president of a union used to be granted leave from his studies for his year of

office, but this privilege is now often more widely extended so that too much influence can be exercised by a smaller number of students enjoying sabbatical leave - in some instances for several years."

Taxpayers' money should not be used to fund unions which refuse a platform to speakers whose views are objectionable to some students or which permit violence or the threat of violence.

"Where these things happen they signal the withering away of the university as part of a free society in which all views may find free expression within the law."

The Green Paper says there will be consultations about how student unions can be made more representative and whether, if that cannot be achieved, the automatic membership of all students can still be justified. The Government is already looking at limiting the funding of student unions to spending on a permitted range of welfare, social and sports activities.

The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals and the Committee of Directors of Polytechnics are urged to produce guidelines on free speech.

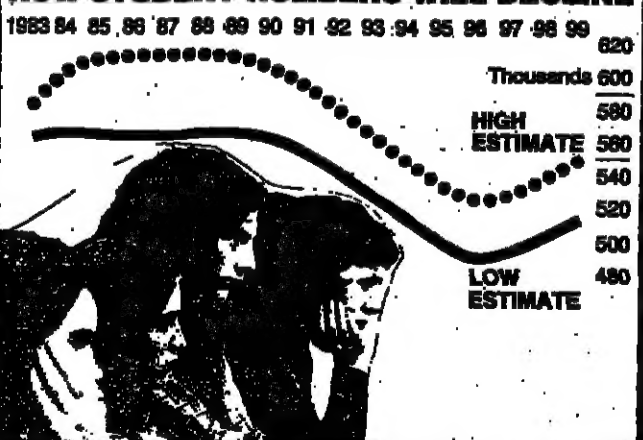
The Government is concerned that Britain's competitors are producing more scientists, engineers, technologists and technicians than the United Kingdom.

The result is likely to be a further fall in our relative standard of living and our ability to sustain our cultural heritage, according to the Green Paper. The future health of higher education depends on its success in generating the manpower the country needs.

Employers should show that they are prepared to recruit scientists, engineers and technologists and give them good pay, promotion and status.

The Government is providing £43 million over three years for extra student places on techno-

HOW STUDENT NUMBERS WILL DECLINE



logical and vocational courses. "The proportion of arts places in higher education as a whole can be expected to shrink."

The Government says it accepts that higher education should be available to anyone who can benefit from it, but qualifies this by saying that the benefit must justify the cost to the taxpayer, and the test of ability to benefit must be applied "as stringently to those with formal qualifications as those without."

The Green Paper says the 18-year-old population is expected to fall by 33 per cent after 1990, but demand for university and polytechnic places will fall by only 14 per cent because of the increasing numbers of women and part-time students. Last year there were 565,000 students. According to two variant projections that number would fall by 87,000 or 74,000 between 1990 and 1997.

Those estimates, run counter to those prepared by the Committee of the Vice-Chancellors and Principals, the Royal Society and the Association of University Teachers.

The Government is looking at the way students are financed, including the possibility of loans, to see if it can find a cheaper method. "It can

be argued that a greater financial engagement on the part of students would cause them to take greater care over their choice of study."

The Government is prepared to look at the idea of a two-year honours degree. It will accept a limited experiment involving a small number of universities and polytechnics to test the view that a "two-year degree for the most able would become a prestigious award."

Quality can be judged by comparing the success of students in obtaining jobs, their salaries and their reported performance in employment, the Green Paper says. Universities are not subject to external scrutiny of their procedure for maintaining academic standards.

"If changes can be contemplated which might bring public sector colleges nearer to the situation of the universities, it may be asked whether arrangements in the university sector should be more comparable to those in the public sector."

The Development of Higher Education into the 1990s. Cmnd No 9524, (Stationery Office, £5.80). Parliament, page 4.

Leading Article, page 15

1905 teddy bear fetches highest auction price

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Sotheby's set a new auction price record for a teddy bear yesterday when a Steiff blond teddy of around 1905 was sold for £2,000 (estimate £300-£500).

It has a black-stitched pointed snout, black button eyes, a black hump, swivel joints and a white dress. Margaret Steiff's felt toy company was founded in 1880 but began to make teddies only in 1903. This one was one of their earliest. Teddy bears are said to have been invented in America in 1902.

Sotheby's sale of dolls and bears yesterday morning made a total of £255,624 with 8 per cent unsold. The main attraction was a George II English wooden doll of around 1740, in its original green sateen dress, which sold for £15,400 (unpublished estimate £12,000-£18,000) to Mme Viernery, a Paris collector. The doll's first owner, Elizabeth Titchborne, who was born in 1736, and it was sold with a sampler stitched by her. It was sent for sale by Mrs Mary Hillier, a keen doll collector.

The sale also contained a toy travelling coach of about 1770, about 1ft and more than 3ft long with a wooden doll inside, which sold for £8,000 (estimate £1,000) also to Mme Viernery.

Sotheby's sale of British and Irish ceramics included a collection of early nineteenth century Worcester porcelains from the Flight Barr and Barr factory, all in good condition, which achieved prices well beyond expectations.

A pair of apple green urns painted with lakeland scenes with gilt borders sold for £6,320 (estimate £3,000-£5,000).

Correction

Mr Robert Jackson, MP for Wantage, was incorrectly recorded as having voted against the Government at the end of Monday night's debate on shopping hours. He supported the Government.

The Times overseas selling prices: Australia \$20; Belgium 8 frs 50c; Canada \$20; Denmark 120 kr; Finland 120 mk; France 120 fr; Germany 120 DM; Greece 120 dr; Holland 120 gld; Ireland 120 sh; Italy 120 lire; Japan 120 yen; Korea 120 won; Luxembourg 120 fr; Malta 120 m; Mexico 120 pesos; New Zealand 120 sh; Norway 120 kr; Portugal 120 esc; Singapore 120 dollars; South Africa 120 rand; Sweden 120 kr; Switzerland 120 fr; Taiwan 120 dollars; Thailand 120 baht; USA 120 cents; USSR 120 rubles; Yugoslavia 120 dinars.

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'General' of a football hooligan army jailed for five years

Leslie Muranyi, the "General" of an organized "army" of Cambridge football hooligans, was jailed for five years at the Central Criminal Court yesterday after he admitted riot.

Another man was jailed for four years and 23 others were sentenced to prison or youth custody terms ranging from five to 15 months. The charges arose out of a planned attack on visiting Chelsea supporters before a Second Division match with Cambridge United on February 11 last year.

Judge Hilliard warned the 25 before sentencing: "Each of you must lose his liberty."

"The damage to your lives is the price that must be paid to teach football fans up and down this country that football violence means loss of liberty - however young, however good, however sad, however hard the effects on individual defendants may be."

"The public is sick and tired of this sort of behaviour, and this sort of looks to the courts for protection."

The attacks by "Muranyi's army" left the streets around Cambridge's Abbey stadium looking like a battlefield. Mr David Stokes, for the prosecution said. Led by Muranyi, a window cleaner, aged 25, of Long Reach Road, Cambridge, the mob rampaged through the city.

Steven Robson, aged 24, of Cherry Hinton Road, Cam-

bridge, was jailed for four years after he admitted wounding Mr David Ayling, aged 20, a Chelsea supporter, of Haich Road, Brentwood, Essex. He also admitted affray.

Mr Ayling, a law-abiding Chelsea supporter for 11 years, was slashed in the throat with a broken milk bottle. He lost a litre of blood but survived because Police Constable Paul Hubbard, aged 36, saw him reeling blood-soaked in the traffic and ran to hold his wound together.

Another officer, Police Constable Mark Cross, aged 30, was drop-kicked in the back by a Cambridge hooligan as he stood, truncheon raised, to ward off 30 rampaging youths from an unconscious Chelsea supporter. Mr Stokes said. Constable Cross was off work for 10 weeks and suffered permanent damage to his vertebrae.

Both officers were commended by the judge.

Before the game 80 of Muranyi's "army" gathered at the City Arms public house in Sturton Street. Look-outs posing as helpful locals were posted in surrounding streets to direct small groups of Chelsea supporters to the public house.

As they approached, reassured by the sight of youths drinking quietly outside, 30 yelling Cambridge fans hurried out of the door. The "innocent" drinkers closed in behind, Mr Stokes said, and the Chelsea

supporters were set on with pool cues and bottles. More Chelsea fans were trapped in "pinch" movements as up to 150 Cambridge supporters took part in running street fights.

Passers-by ran for cover, cars were vandalized and one Chelsea supporter ran through the thorns of a rose hedge in his panic. Eventually the hooligans were rounded up by police with dogs. More than 40 people were taken to hospital.

The following, also from Cambridge, were sentenced after pleading guilty or being convicted of affray: John Muranyi, 10 months youth custody; Dean Quinn (nine months youth custody); Mark Anderson (nine months prison); Andrew Pope (11 months youth custody); Andrew Vanderahe (five months prison); Shane Carter (five months youth custody).

James Martin (eight months youth custody); Linnie Jones (six months prison); Gary Ashby (six months jail); Michael Cafferkey (nine months youth custody).

Mark Pleasance (eight months youth custody); Alan Jones (eight months youth custody); Gary Playford (15 months prison); Gary Playford (15 months prison); William Pearson (15 months prison); John Murray (six months prison); Paul Hagar (12 months prison); David Murray (nine months youth custody); Michael Hunt (10 months youth custody); Andrew Fox (10 months youth custody); Duane Hood (10 months youth custody); William Toher (12 months youth custody).



Francis Bacon with his study of a male nude (1979) yesterday, part of a retrospective exhibition of his work which opens at the Tate Gallery today (Photograph: Dod Miller).

Director 'was paid £78,000 by Libyans'

Libya paid a British businessman, Anthony Gill, \$100,000 (£78,000) in the months leading up to his arrest in Egypt in connection with an alleged plot to assassinate a former Libyan prime minister, the police told Horseferry Road Court, London, yesterday.

Mr Stephen Harvey, for Mr Gill, told the court that the payment was to cover business expenses and "upfront" money. But in spite of police fears that Mr Gill would abscond and that he might be in danger of Libyan retribution "he was freed on £100,000 bail on a charge of helping a relative of Colonel Gaddafi flee Britain."

Sex-bias scientist wins compensation

A complaint by Dr Yvonne Hawkins, a government scientist, of sexual discrimination against the Ministry of Defence and Vickers Shipbuilding was settled out of court yesterday.

With the ministry agreeing to pay an undisclosed sum in compensation for her embarrassment.

Dr Hawkins, aged 33, claimed she was prevented from taking part in sonar testing on a new nuclear submarine because she was a woman and there was no accommodation for her on board.

She told an industrial tribunal in Bristol that the ministry and Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering, of Barrow-in-Furness, that their decision meant she was unable to do her work properly.

The thugs in designer clothes

The "army" of football hooligans launched a campaign where for more than a year made their home ground a place where no fan could feel safe.

Organized on military lines and wearing a "uniform" of expensive designer-label sweaters, the "new breed" of football hooligans staged well planned attacks on rival fans.

The members of the gang were mature men, mostly in their mid 20s. Some were married with mortgages and children, and soccer violence was their Saturday afternoon entertainment.

Known as the "Cambridge casuals", Muranyi's "army" all wore the same kind of expensive casual clothes - Pringle label sweaters, jeans, and Nike training shoes - so they could easily identify their comrades during disorders. Their smart appearance gave them a respectable air.

Last season, Cambridge United, seemed doomed to relegation and the hooligan element among their followers were out for bloodshed.

Their targets were not the hardened Chelsea thugs, known as the "Shed bootboys",

Instead the Cambridge thugs were looking for Chelsea supporters who had made their own way to the match, usually travelling in small groups.

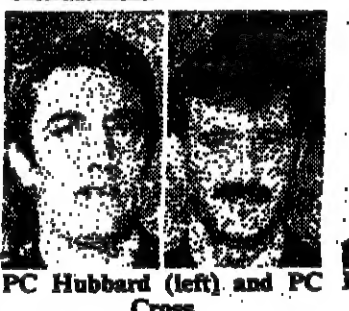
Lookouts were posted in the vicinity of the City Arms pub. Their job was to seek out such Chelsea fans and try to direct them straight to the pub from where the rest of the gang would charge out and attack them.

Plans were made to catch fleeing fans in a military style "pinch movement" which would stop them escaping.

After the violence more than 40 people were taken to hospital.

The four detectives heading the police team, led by Det Inspector Robert Atkinson, were determined to make sure that never again should such disgraceful scenes be witnessed at a Cambridge United match.

The City Arms changed hands since it was used as a base for the hooligans' planning sessions.



PC Hubbard (left) and PC Cross



Leslie Muranyi (left) - and Steven Robson

£2m campaign on heroin dangers

A £2 million media campaign against heroin addiction, which lays more emphasis on the risk of getting a sports face than the danger of death was launched by the Government yesterday.

Mr David Mellor, Under Secretary of State at the Home Office, who chairs the inter-departmental ministerial group on drug abuse, said: "The aim is not to strike the attitudes that those wholly outside the drug culture might like, but to find out what messages strike a chord with those at risk."

The campaign, designed by the Yellowhammer advertising agency is aimed at teenagers who have not tried heroin but may be tempted to do so. It includes press advertisements and two 40-second television commercials, built around slogans such as "Skin care by heroin", "Heroin screws you up", and "Everybody thinks they can control heroin until it starts to control them".

The commercials were first transmitted on ITV last night, and the advertisements will appear from today onwards in magazines ranging from *Honey* and *Nineteen* to *The Tatler*.

Sainsbury's job expansion

The supermarket chain J Sainsbury announced yesterday an increase in pre-tax profits for last year from £130 million to £156.4 million, and expects to open another 15 food stores and five Homebase DIY outlets creating 5,000 new jobs.

Last year the numbers employed by Sainsbury increased by more than 5,600 to a total of

Lifeboats saved 1,319 last year

The lives of 1,319 people were saved last year by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, according to its annual report published yesterday.

However, the Duke of Atholl, the institution's chairman, said yesterday that it needed 60 new lifeboats during the next 10 years at a cost of about £30 million.

Boy drowned

Wayne Keeton, the Nottingham schoolboy whose body was found in a river near his home last month, died from drowning, an inquest at Nottingham was told yesterday before being adjourned.

Coroner to quit

Dr Mary McHugh, the Croydon coroner who was recently involved in a dispute about kidney transplants, will retire on September 1. She will be 70.

Meat retreat

Almost three million Britons are vegetarians or have cut red meat from their diet, according to a Gallup poll for the Realest Company, which yesterday introduced the first vegetarian sausage.

Cowdrey ban

Christopher Cowdrey aged 27, the England cricketer, was banned from driving for a year and fined £150 at Ramsgate Magistrates' Court, Kent, yesterday, after he admitted driving with excess alcohol last September.

Approval for Scots drink laws

Scotland's relaxed licensing laws have won approval in general and among women in particular, according to a survey on drinking and attitudes to licensing in Scotland, published yesterday.

The findings of the survey, by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys for the Scottish Home and Health Department, are expected to add to the pressure of the Scottish pattern to be applied in England and Wales.

The Licensing (Scotland) Act 1976 implemented the main recommendations of the Cleary report, which said that licensing laws should be relaxed

From Ronald Faux, Edinburgh

Most Scottish public houses were allowed to open from 11am to 11pm with late licences awarded at the discretion of the court.

The survey was attacked by the Scottish Council on Alcoholism. Mr Douglas Allison, executive director, said it would be wrong to base a change in the law on what was no more than an opinion poll.

"Because people like the changes, that is no criteria for saying they have achieved what they set out to achieve, to change Scotland's attitude to drinking."

The figures for drunkenness might have fallen, but they had also fallen in England, prob-

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The BBC is expected to transmit on BBC1 very shortly a programme criticising BSM which is likely to contain serious allegations against BSM. The BBC has invited BSM to participate in the programme on the following conditions:-

1. The BBC is not prepared to specify any of the particular allegations or criticisms which will be made of BSM in the forthcoming programme sufficiently to give BSM an opportunity to investigate this matter.
2. The BBC is not prepared to tell BSM the identity of the other persons who will be participating in the programme.
3. The BBC is not prepared to state the estimated duration of the programme or to make any commitment about allowing BSM equal time in the programme to reply to criticisms made about BSM.
4. The BBC is not prepared to conduct a live interview with a BSM representative.
5. The BBC will not agree to broadcast a filmed interview unedited.

For obvious reasons these conditions imposed by the BBC are totally unacceptable and grossly unfair.

In addition it should be noted that the BBC has carried out investigations concerning BSM for the past three and a half months, but at no stage in those investigations did the BBC contact BSM to seek to establish the systems and methods operated by BSM.

Unlike commercial Television which is governed by the Broadcasting Act and the strict guidelines of the I.B.A. the BBC appear to operate under conditions which deny the victims of their "trials by television" an adequate opportunity to defend themselves against attacks which will be seen by millions of people all over the country.

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PARLIAMENT MAY 21 1985

No more money for teachers

Higher education must be used to improve economy

GREEN PAPER

It was vital for higher education to contribute more effectively to the improvement of the performance of the economy, Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said in the Commons when he presented the Green Paper, *The Development of Higher Education into the 1990s*.

Unless the country's economic performance improved, he said, it would be less able to value the many of the things it valued most, including education, for pleasure and general culture and the financing of scholarship and research as an end in itself.

The Green Paper therefore emphasized the need for higher education to become more responsive to the changing industrial and commercial circumstances and the importance of close links between it and business, the professions and the public services.

The Government wanted to ensure that the available resources for research were used to the greatest possible advantage which required more selectivity and planning. The University Grants Committee was developing and promoting new selective allocation and planning arrangements.

The Jarrett report had recommended a review of the role, structure and staffing of the UGC and the Government had accepted this recommendation. He would announce the terms of reference and the form of the review as soon as possible.

Mr Giles Radice, chief Opposition spokesman on education, said the Green Paper was a miserable flop, containing no new ideas and totally lacking in vision. Above all, it was irresponsibly evasive about resources.

He went on: The Secretary of State has left the dirty work to the UGC which reveals that as a consequence of the Government's plans, universities can expect a real cut in their income in each of the next three years, a loss of revenue equivalent to closing down a medium-sized university like Southampton, Durham or Exeter every year for the next three years.

The truth is that the Government's higher education policy totally fails to meet our national educational needs, he said. It fails to provide wider educational opportunities for highly skilled graduates who require and it fails to meet industry's research requirements. It is a recipe for national decline.

We in the Labour Party reject his defeatist approach and will campaign for the vigorous, dynamic and innovative higher education system we need.

Sir Keith Joseph: He accuses me of being evasive about resources. The Labour Party seems never to need to be so because it always proposes to spend more. Will he spend more on universities than the Government is proposing?

Mr David Madel (South West Bedfordshire, C) when the Government's higher education policy was announced, said the Government had accepted this recommendation. He would announce the terms of reference and the form of the review as soon as possible.

He was moving a new clause to end the existing exemptions for bus and coach operators from the Restrictive Trade Practices Act 1976. Such exemptions would not be appropriate following deregulation, he said. The new clause was carried by 271 votes to 153 - Government majority, 118.

The effect of the new clause, he said, would be that if two or more operators entered into agreements by which they accepted restrictions concerning fares, areas covered or frequency of services, then they would be required to register such agreements with the Office of Fair Trading.

Agreements which involved significant restrictions could be referred to the Restrictive Practices Court. It would then be open to the parties to the agreement to seek to persuade the court that it was not

against the public interest and should not be referred to the court.

The new clause would not spell the end of all forms of agreement between bus operators.

Mr Gwyneth Dwyer, chief Opposition spokesman on transport, said in rural areas there would be a man with one bus making a sensible timetable agreement with another man with another bus. Was the minister really saying such matters should automatically be referred to the Restrictive Practices Act?

At present, coordination of timetables and services was of most use to the traveller. Bus operators would inevitably want to do what was in their own interest. They would be working to go around, rather than to go through, the restrictions.

Mr Gordon Oakes (Harrow, Lab) said it was sensible, particularly in rural areas, for operators to agree to divide services between them. Mr Eric Forth (Mid Worcestershire, C) agreed the Restrictive Practices Act would then be open to the parties to the agreement to seek to persuade the court that it was not

against the public interest and should not be referred to the court.

Mr Keith Joseph: I am convening a conference on appraisal, to which local education authorities and teachers' representatives will certainly be invited, for this autumn.

Mr Edward Leake (Cambridge, C) said the present negotiating machinery clearly did not work adequately. Would the minister institute urgent reform of the Teachers' Remuneration Act to ensure new machinery was devised to include appraisal of teachers' performance and restructuring of their salary levels?

Sir Keith Joseph: I have not yet been convinced that a change in structure is necessary. What he wishes for is a large extension of Scotland without achieving the purpose he has in mind.

Mr David Nettle (Covey South East, Lab): After the shire county elections, a large number of councils lost Conservative control and more and more local authorities are coming behind the teachers and saying they deserve a decent rate of pay.

If a better offer is made, will he lift rate-restricting and other financial restraints in order that more money can be found?

Sir Keith Joseph: No. Mr Michael Hancock (Portsmouth, South, SDP): As the Burnham negotiations are continuing to break down, it is about time we got personally involved and took over negotiations with the teachers.

Sir Keith Joseph: We must wait and see what happens in Burnham which meets again this Thursday.

Mr Richard Holt (Langbaurgh, C) asked about a school for handicapped children in his constituency which suffers inconvenience due to industrial action after the Whitnash holiday.

Sir Keith Joseph: I would rather speak in general about the behaviour of those teachers who are disrupting or who are on strike. I think they are letting down their profession, they are seriously damaging the interests of the children and they are bringing great harm to the many one-parent households.

Mr Roy Hughes (Newport East, Lab): Morale of teachers is at an all-time low. Can the minister not appreciate the detrimental effect which can have on the long-term future of our children? Why will he not put up extra money to try to reach an amicable settlement?

Sir Keith Joseph: The union leaders in certain cases have been systematically misleading members of their unions. The teachers' unions have refused to negotiate, arbitrate, or even to discuss the restructuring of the employers have asked them to talk about it.

Mr Mark Carlisle (Warrington, South, C): As from today the NUT has called out teachers from four schools in my constituency, three of them primary schools. I have published that the basis is that they are in the constituency of a former Secretary of State for Education.

One could not possibly have a shared respect for the leadership of a union which attempts to justify its behaviour on such spurious grounds. Sadly, it confirms my view that the NUT as a body is becoming a



Radice: A miserable flop lacking in vision

Sir Keith Joseph said that while higher education was so largely dependent on public funds there had to be some link between the prosperity of the economy and the resources available.

As the economy was fighting to regain competitiveness in an increasingly tough world, this relationship was unavoidable.

Dr John Marek (Wrexham, Lab) said the statement would do nothing to dispel the gloom in the higher education sector. Salary levels were being eroded and there was a general lack of motivation and morale which showed itself in the teaching and in the quality of research. There should be a system of quinquennial planning and a guarantee of no more cuts.

Mr Keith Joseph said that in the days of quinquennial evaluations no government has been able to fulfil the expectations created. It was not honourable to promise more than could be achieved in the way of stability.

Mr Andrew Bennett (Denton and Reddish, Lab) an Opposition spokesman on education, said the Green Paper was an admission of despair and a body blow to economic prosperity.

Mr Robert Rhodes James (Cambridge, C) said the general theme of the document was one of contraction. Was Sir Keith Joseph going to ask those like him, who believed in higher and further education, to accept further contraction? They could not accept such a policy.

Mr Kenneth Hind (Lancashire West, C) it was an essential clause to protect the interests of the general public and to protect their choice.

Mr Richard Caborn (Sheffield Central, Lab) said the basis of the Bill was the Hereford and Worcester exception which had been an unintended disaster from every conceivable point of view.

Mr David Mitchell said it was Mrs Dwyer who was in a muddle, not the Government. Two operators harmlessly coordinating their services would not be caught. All the Government was doing was doing away with the special privilege of the bus industry and making it like any other industry.

Shop hours vote
The Government had majorities of 120 and 143 in two divisions at the conclusion of Monday's debate on shopping hours and Sunday trading.

The Government motion commending the Audit Committee recommendations that limitations on shopping hours be removed was carried by 304 votes to 184 and an Opposition amendment seeking a safeguard for shops workers was rejected by 321 votes to 178.

New peer
Lord Kimball, formerly Sir Marcus Kimball, Conservative MP for Gainsborough from 1956 to 1983, was introduced in the House of Lords.

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PM wants 3% inflation

THE ECONOMY

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, declared during Commons questioning by Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, that she wanted inflation lower still - at 3 per cent and below.

Policies advocated by the Labour leader would take inflation right up, she said in answer to his repeated demands for a date on which the target of 3 per cent would be reached and his suggestion she had "conned" the country on inflation.

Pointing out that the rate of inflation was now 6.9 per cent Mr Kinnock said: Does she still think it is going to go down to her promised target of 3 per cent?

Mrs Thatcher: The inflation rate is 6.9 per cent, which is below the lowest the Labour Government ever managed to achieve.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has already indicated we expect it to be back to just over 5 per cent at the end of the year and the continue its further rate downwards.

Mr Kinnock: Does she still think it is going to reach her promised target of 3 per cent and if so when is this going to occur?

What changes in policy is she going to bring about in order to try to promote that, or is she really going to bring about in order to try to promote that, or is she really going to bring about in order to try to promote that?

Mrs Thatcher: The Chancellor has already said that it is expected to reach around five per cent at the end of the year and lower still in 1986. Yes, I do want it lower still - 3 per cent and below.

Mr Kinnock: When is it going to reach 3 per cent? Is she coping out of this one again?

Mrs Thatcher: He is talking his customary nonsense. We shall have a target on getting inflation down. His policy would take inflation up to exceed the 27 per cent of the last Labour Government.

Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party, commented: Bearing in mind the rise in inflation and the steady rise in unemployment, what needs changing is not her voice but her policies.

Mrs Thatcher: Perhaps Mr Steel will note that the Labour Government's policy of high inflation and high unemployment, never reached a rate of inflation as low as 6.9 per cent.

Mr Frank Haynes (Ashfield, Lab): Inflation is rocketing to 6.9 per cent. She and her Chancellor of the Exchequer are telling the workers of this nation that their earnings are too high, but makes no mention at all about these directors in high wages that get thousands of thousands of increases each year and never says a word about that. What about that, then? (Laughter.)

Mrs Thatcher: I am delighted that the Opposition appears to have become converted to policies which require lower inflation and therefore lower wages and lower earnings. I am delighted that the Opposition is now in a position to support the Government's policy of lower inflation and lower wages.

Mr Kinnock: The Government's policy of lower inflation and lower wages is a policy of lower wages and lower earnings. It is a policy of lower wages and lower earnings. It is a policy of lower wages and lower earnings.

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Employers and unions invited to discuss severance terms

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Government's mind was not set on compensation for council staff made redundant as a result of abolition of the GLC and the metropolitan counties but it was for the unions and employers to come to the negotiating table.

The Earl of Gower, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Arts, said during the fifth day of the committee stage of the Local Government Bill in the House of Lords.

We have repeatedly invited the unions and employers to discuss our proposals without prejudice to their opposition to the Bill, he said, and I very much regret that most have not taken up this invitation and the opportunities for discussion are diminishing.

The Government hopes they will reconsider their attitude, our door remains open.

An amendment proposed by Lord Winstanley (L) providing compensation broadly comparable to that available prior to March 2 1984, was withdrawn and a further amendment proposed by Lord Dean of Beawick (Lab) making the date for comparability the day on which the Act was passed, was rejected by 178 to 120 Government majority.

Lord Winstanley (L), moving his amendment, said it sought greater protection for staff than was given explicitly in the Bill.

Before March last year a number of authorities had introduced enhanced schemes of compensation for staff made redundant in anticipation of abolition. On that date the Secretary of State had announced that no such further schemes would be permitted.

If the levels agreed prior to March 2 1984 are accepted now as reasonable (he said), and presum-

ably the Government does accept that as they are allowed in the Bill, then those arrived at subsequently on less favourable terms are unreasonable. Some effort ought to be made to equalise the position.

The amendment would encourage staff to stay with their authorities until abolition to ensure the maintenance of services. That was a serious problem, because loss of staff was already affecting some authorities. That trend had to be halted.

Lord Dean of Beawick, for the Opposition, speaking in his amendment, said they were talking about 51,000 people employed by the GLC and the six metropolitan counties. Three counties already had these schemes - West Yorkshire and Greater Manchester, each with 7,000 employees, and Merseyside with more than 5,000 employees. The schemes were brought in with the general support of the councils concerned.

Lord Winstanley (L) said the greatest asset any organisation had was its staff and it was very important that they should be fairly treated. It was not their fault, speaking of the GLC, that they had introduced a scheme which appeared to have prevented them opening their discussions.

The compensation terms and staff transfer arrangements for the GLC were unsatisfactory compared with previous reorganizations. This situation had been made worse because the administrative task of dispersing thousands of staff to successor bodies could not be achieved, even taking the most optimistic view, within the limited timetable proposed by the Government.

Lord Fisher of Rednal (Lab) said three metropolitan counties were able to bring forward their severance schemes before March 2, the other three were not so far advanced. She believed that the West Midlands were placing their

scheme before their financial resources committed at the beginning of July. It was a case of getting it through all the various committees.

The Earl of Gower said the vast majority of affected would be transferred to the successor bodies. Those left to seek recruitment would be a relatively small proportion of the total staff - about 30 per cent.

The Government intended that the successor bodies should recruit staff; it was a matter for them. The Government also desired a voluntary early retirement scheme which went equitably across the whole community, particularly the public sector.

The position where some of the employees will be treated more generously than others (he said) is not of the Government's making. It arises from the preemptive, misguided and irresponsible actions by some of the authorities concerned.

They had provided terms without regard for the costs, leaving that to their successor. That was not responsible behaviour nor a sensible basis on which to prepare regulations.

The Government believes it important (he said) that individual employees of the authorities should not be misled, mistakenly in any way, into believing that they have a right to protective terms which in practice under this clause, they do not.

The unions and employers (he continued) who are unwilling to discuss the compensation issue only add to the uncertainty which their members and employees respectively face.

Some unions with great courage have defied their national leaders and entered into negotiations with the employers (he said). I hope more will; they will find the settlement very reasonable.

Mr Giles Radice, chief Opposition spokesman on education: Will the Secretary of State veto any Burnham settlement above 4 per cent?

Sir Keith Joseph: The veto, which came in about 1985, when the Labour Government was in office, is not a matter about which I am prepared to make predictions.

Mr Michael Colvin (Romsey and Wateride, C): With one million children affected by strike action this week, would he endeavour to incorporate a no strike clause in any future formula which may be agreed on teachers' pay?

Sir Keith Joseph: I am grateful for that suggestion. My representatives only have a relative, though important part in the negotiations. I am sure the employers will have noted his suggestion.

Mr Clement Freud asked what sort of appraisal Sir Keith Joseph had in mind?

Sir Keith Joseph: I have appraisal in mind, a system or systems which will be worked out with the employers and with the teachers themselves. There is no question of imposing one particular drill but it is important that the employers and teachers should formulate, together with the department, methods of appraisal which are fair and satisfactory.

Appraisal should be by a method respected by all concerned but he was not prepared to say that it should be by independent people.

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MoD shells have east bloc TNT

PMs QUESTIONS

Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said the Ministry of Defence had placed an order overseas which would involve using TNT from the Soviet Union because it was cheapest.

There was laughter as Mr David Pennington (Creston, L) said: The current Ministry of Defence order for 11,000 artillery shells has been placed with a Belgian firm that uses Soviet TNT because it is cheapest.

What assurances can she give on continuity of supply in the event of hostilities between East and West? (Laughter.)

Mr Thatcher: The department has a policy of introducing greater competition. (Loud laughter.) Tenders are sought only from recognized and established sources of munitions, predominantly within Western Europe. We do not purchase any munitions products directly from the eastern bloc.

TRE which got the order is a Belgian state company with a high international reputation for the supply of munitions and explosives and is not a subsidiary of any other company. It was TRE that occasionally got some of its explosives from eastern Europe.

Miners' plan welcomed
Miners wanting a more direct stake in the coal industry would be welcomed by the Government, Mrs Thatcher, said.

Mr Patrick McNair-Wilson (New Forest, C) asked her: Will she encourage the chairman of the National Coal Board to persuade miners who wish to invest their own money to finance and work their own pit?

Since they will be producing mainly for the domestic market, there can be no logical reason for

Select committee report

Civil liberty worry over Special Branch not justified, MPs say

By Richard Evans
Lobby Reporter

Police Special Branches in England and Wales perform an essential public service and do not justify public anxiety, the Commons home affairs select committee concludes in a majority report published yesterday.

The report, supported by the seven Conservative MPs on the committee, says there is little doubt that the Special Branches have been in danger of acquiring a sinister reputation of a "force which persecutes harmless citizens for political reasons, by means of nefarious ways to assist the security services and is accountable to no one."

"Our inquiry has sought to discover... whether there are valid grounds for concern."

The inquiry was inevitably severely restricted, the MPs say, by the need to avoid any disclosure which could damage national security.

In December 1984, during the early stages of the committee's inquiry, Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary, published Home Office guidelines on the work of Special Branch officers.

The report says: "It is not clear to us why it was ever necessary to keep the guidelines secret. If our inquiry had achieved nothing else we believe that the publication of these guidelines would have made the inquiry worthwhile."

Each of the 43 police forces in England and Wales, has its own Special Branch.

Last July the Metropolitan Police Special Branch had 379 officers, including 73 on port duties and 67 on personal protection work. Merseyside Special Branch had 168 officers, of whom 73 worked at ports. The remaining forces contained about 760 Special Branch Officers.

The following MPs took part in the inquiry.

Conservative: Sir Edward

Gardner (Fylde, committee chairman); Miss Janet Fookes (Plymouth Drake); Mr Jeremy Hanley (Richmond and Barnes); Mr. John Hunt (Ravensbourne); Sir Fergus Montgomery (Altrincham and Sale); Mr. Ivor Stanbrook (Orrington); Mr John Wheeler (Westminster North).

Labour: Mr Gerald Birmingham (St Helens South); Mr Robin Corbett (Birmingham, Erdington); Ms Clare Short (Birmingham, Ladywood); Mr David Winnick (Walsall North).

Because the committee did not investigate individual Special Branch operations "we cannot say that there are never instances of misguided or over-zealous actions by Special Branch officers, but we are reassured by the firm evidence, given by those representing chief constables that there is no general lack of control."

Control and accountability

The National Council for Civil Liberties and the Association of Metropolitan Authorities suggested Special Branches were insufficiently accountable, through chief constables, to police authorities, the report says.

"We believe that chief constables do, through appropriate senior officers, exercise the same degree of control over their Special Branches as they do over all police officers."

Public order

Special Branches gather information about threats to public order to enable an appropriate level of policing to be provided at marches, meetings, demonstrations and pickets. That includes investigating matters connected with industrial disputes, but only in relation to threats to public order, the report adds.

It is not the job of Special Branches to interest themselves

in people just because of opinions they hold.

The MPs say: "We are satisfied that such public concern as may exist about Special Branch investigations in relation to public order, is unfounded."

Subversion

Subversive activities are defined as "those which threaten the safety or well-being of the State, and which are intended to undermine or overthrow parliamentary democracy by political, industrial or violent means."

The MPs say: "We have considered whether this definition is too wide, for it has been represented to us that it enables the Special Branches to treat as subversive a wide range of political and industrial activities."

"We considered Lord Denning's description of a subversive 'one who would overthrow... government by unlawful means'."

But the MPs conclude that the existing definition, given by Lord Harris of Greenwich in the Lords in 1975, is "broadly correct". It does not cover political or industrial activities unless both its limbs apply.

Training

"The training programme described to us appears to be both adequate and reasonable."



Mr Ajeeb getting his robes as his wife, Arshad, the Lady Mayoress, looks on.

Race pledge by black Lord Mayor

Britain's first black Lord Mayor took office yesterday with a pledge to work for improved race relations and increased job opportunities for ethnic minority youth (Peter Davenport writes).

The highlight of Mr Muhammad Ajeeb's career, from a teenage immigrant labourer to Bradford's first citizen, has been overshadowed by the fire tragedy at the city's football stadium. At a ceremony in the City Hall, Mr Ajeeb, a Labour councillor for the past five years, not only mourned the dead but looked to the future.

He said: "It has been said that my coming Lord Mayor is a step forward in race relations. It may also confirm some people's suspicions that the whole exercise is nothing but tokenism. I hope that I shall show that I am no token. I never have been and I never shall be."

Mr Ajeeb, who was born in Pakistan, moved to England in 1958 working as a labourer, a shunter for British Rail and a bus conductor. He remains a practising Muslim.

Falklands training curbs anger RAF crews

RAF fighter pilots in the Falklands believe the islands' defences are being put at risk because of restrictions on their training.

The aircrew are not allowed to fly below 250 feet and have to abide by speed limits, as in the United Kingdom.

But documents captured in the war show that Argentine pilots attacked British ships at heights of 30ft or lower. The RAF crews want to train to cope with similar attacks.

One Harrier pilot said: "The regulations here are ridiculous. The UK rule book has simply been applied to the islands and it's completely unsuitable. This could be the best training ground in the world but at the moment it is being wasted."

The height regulations also mean RAF pilots cannot simulate Argentine air attacks to train missile crews.

A Phantom pilot said: "If you fly against our missile bases at 250 feet you get a message back saying - 'unrealistic - not like Argentines. Don't call us we'll call you'."

Immediately after the conflict pilots were allowed to fly at 100 feet, but the regulations were later tightened, possibly because one fighter crashed on the islands.

Air crews face court martial if they fly outside the limits, but the Phantom pilot said: "The only way to decent training is by breaking the rules. But you never know when someone might report you."

Minority group calls for investigation

An independent commission of inquiry should be set up to investigate the Special Branch, according to a minority report by Mr David Winnick, Labour MP for Walsall North, which is supported by party colleagues on the home affairs select committee.

The Labour MPs said: "We are satisfied that political surveillance is carried out by the Special Branches, often at the request of the intelligence services, against those who in no way wish to undermine or destroy parliamentary democracy or threaten the well-being of the State."

The minority report cites the case of Mrs Madeline Haigh, of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, who was "harassed" by the Special Branch after writing to her local paper opposing the siting of cruise missiles. It also refers to the revelation of two former MI5 employees in the 20/20 Vision film, *MI5's Official Secrets*, shown on Channel Four.

The MPs said: "We are equally concerned at the intervention by the Special Branches in industrial relations matters."

The minority report recommends:

- Changing the definition of subversion because the existing definition allows "far too wide a discretion" to the Special Branches.
- Much stricter attitudes adopted by "agencies of the State" before civil liberties of citizens are interfered with.
- An independent commission of inquiry.
- Training of Special Branch officers on issues including evolution of political democracy in Britain, history of trade unionism, the long tradition of public campaigning and dissent.
- The Commons to examine the possibility of making the security services accountable to Parliament to some degree.
- Regular parliamentary debates.

Expedition finds Armada wreck off Irish coast

A team of English and Scottish divers has discovered the wreck of one of three ships of the Spanish Armada which sank in storms after being routed by the English in 1588.

Three bronze cannon and a gunnion ball have been recovered from the wreck, believed to be the Juliana, off Stracadda, Co Sligo in the Irish Republic.

Dr Colin Martin, the expedition's director, said yesterday that the find could be as important as the discovery of Henry VIII's battleship, the Mary Rose.

Court rejects return of child to mother

A judge's decision to return a boy aged four months to a couple who had been guilty of branding and beating three other children, was criticized in the Court of Appeal yesterday.

Sir Roger Ormrod, sitting with Lord Justice Fox, said that the baby would be exposed to "grave risks" if handed over.

They overturned a decision of Mr Justice Balcombe, in the Family Division of the High Court in March, who gave control to the mother.

The child, not named in court, will stay in the care of Barnsley District Council.

Infrastructure: 3

Call for state funds to assist house repairs

Many people believe Britain is crumbling because of inadequate investment in infrastructure. The Government denies it. In the concluding part of his series DAVID WALKER examines how much investment there should be.

In its recent Green Paper on home improvement, the Government said that the primary responsibility for maintaining private housing, an essential element of the nation's infrastructure, lay with owners.

Home owners each spend on average at least £620 a year on repairs and decoration, amounting to more than £7.5 billion a year for England and Wales. But is this enough when successive surveys of the physical condition of housing suggest that while nearly all dwellings have basic amenities, the signs of disrepair are growing?

In 1981, more than three million dwellings in England were found in need of repairs costing at least £2,500. There is a high correlation between the age of housing and unsatisfactory condition. According to the Institute of Housing a large commitment of government money is needed to assist home owners maintain their properties.

The Government has never denied the need for investment in the nation's infrastructure, but says this has to be a partnership between State and private developers, firms and households.

In an introduction to a booklet extolling the Government's inner-city policy, Mrs Thatcher said that "huge amounts" of taxpayers' money

had been spent on land clearance and refurbishing buildings, and it was money best spent in partnership with the private sector.

In 1983-84, the 13 public sector bodies involved in providing the basic infrastructure of water mains, coal, gas and electricity installations spent £6.7 billion. Was it enough? Three years ago the National Water Council costed a programme for replacing sewers at an extra £20 million a year, rising to £100 million. This represents up to a third of the amount spent in 1982-83 by all the English and Welsh water authorities on capital investment on sewerage, land drainage and environmental works.

The Government has recently publicized the fact that, in aggregate, spending on new construction work has risen since 1979-80 by more than £1.3 billion a year. Including housing association payments and improvement grants to householders, public outlays on building were £8.8 billion in the year up to the end of March.

Conservatives have urged Mrs Thatcher to publicize such figures, and to make more visits to the sites of roadworks, bypasses and building works, to scotch allegations by opposition politicians that Britain is becoming "tatty".

Concluded

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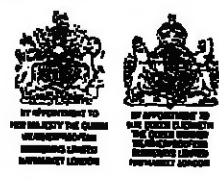
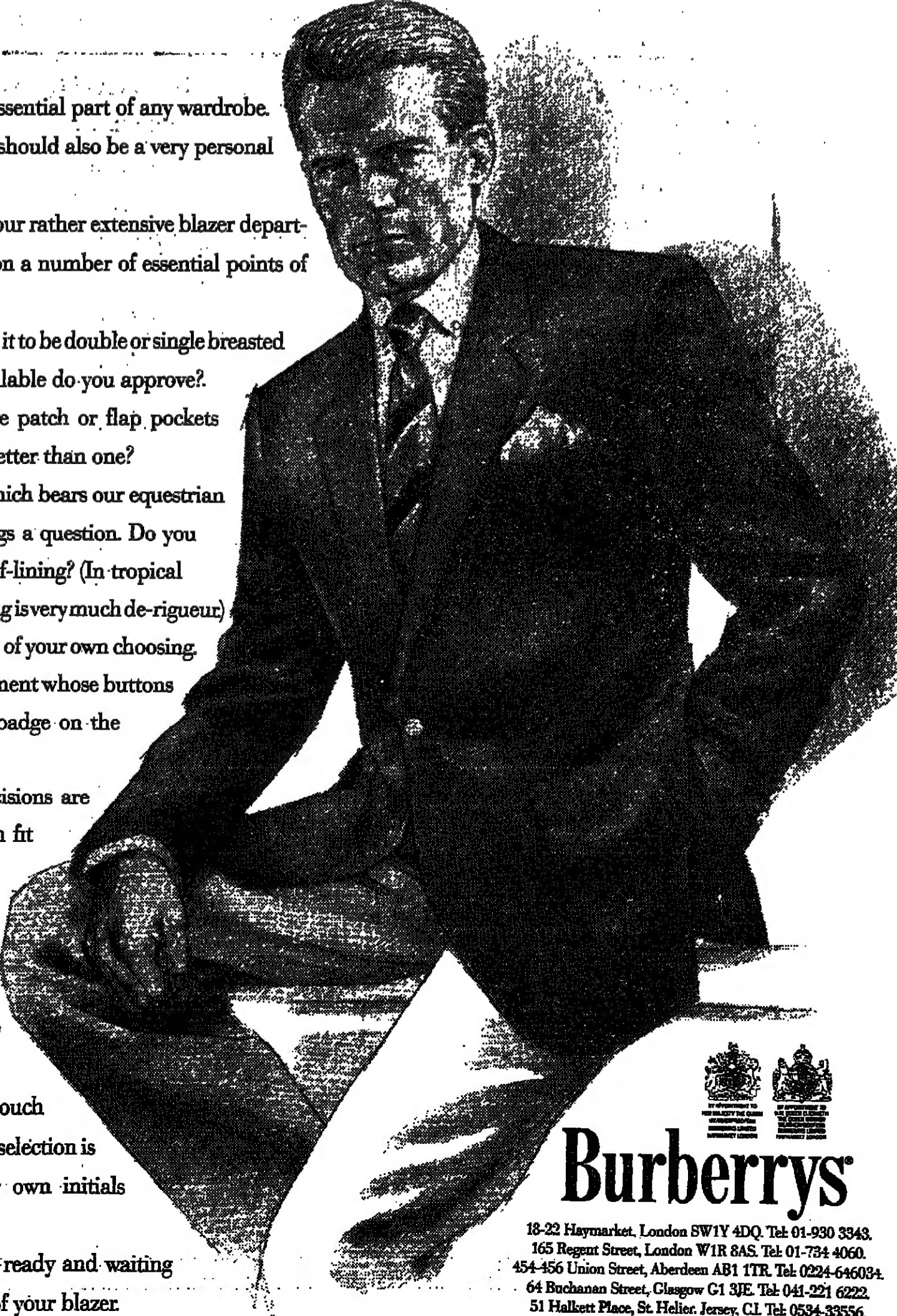
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NORTHAI

Outburst of nationalism in Peking football riot shocks Hong Kong

From David Bonavia, Hong Kong

Public opinion here has registered shock and disbelief at the football riot in Peking on Sunday, in which an ugly degree of anti-Hong Kong sentiment was displayed by young people.

In recent months, Hong Kong has been flattered and wooed by mainland officials in preparation for the transfer of sovereignty from Britain to Peking.

People here are concerned by reports of extreme hostility shown to foreigners and those thought to be from Hong Kong, after the colony's football team defeated China in a World Cup run-up match.

The Hong Kong team re-

turned here yesterday to a hero's welcome. But officials and ordinary people here are wondering whether the riot did not signify a deeper degree of hostility towards Hong Kong people and Overseas Chinese than is normally permitted to be seen in China. The outburst naturally arouses fears about the treatment Hong Kong will receive after 1997.

As in Britain, football hooliganism in China is seen as partly a sign of frustration on the part of young people who have failed to find satisfactory jobs despite the optimistic assurances of the leadership.

In China, hostility towards

foreigners, as scapegoats for the country's ills over the past 150 years, has resulted in violence and even massacres, but most people had felt this was a thing of the past.

PEKING: Police detained 127 football fans after Sunday night's riot in which 30 policemen were beaten up and four seriously injured, the *People's Daily* reported yesterday (Mary Lee writes).

According to police statistics, 25 vehicles were damaged, including four cars driven by foreign residents, five taxis, 11 buses and five other vehicles.

The only local casualty apart from the police appears to have been a taxi driver who was beaten up by rioters as they overturned his car. Three of the rioters were arrested by police on the spot, the paper said. City officials have described the riot as the worst sports violence in Peking in three decades.

In a separate commentary entitled "disgraceful behaviour", the *China Daily* said: "Though the rioters amounted to only a rotten apple in the barrel, this is totally alien to the image of the Chinese nation, long noted for its politeness and courtesy. It also shows the neglect of education, particularly civic education, during the decade of the Cultural Revolution."

Leading article, page 15



Mother's helpers: Douglas Fairbanks Jr and Princess Yasmin Aga Khan at a function in New York to raise money for victims of Alzheimer's disease, which produces premature senility. The Princess's mother, Rita Hayworth, suffers from the illness.

Warm Kremlin welcome for Gandhi

From A Correspondent

Moscow

Soviet leaders gave Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, a warm and elaborate welcome yesterday when he arrived in Moscow for a six-day visit.

Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, the Soviet Prime Minister, and other leaders braved heavy rain

to greet him at the airport. He was whisked in a motorcade along deserted streets to the Kremlin, where he met Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, and his wife Raisa.

Mr Gandhi's visit, his first official foreign trip, is seen as India's way of emphasizing its intentions to remain Moscow's closest Third World ally, de-

spite recent overtures to the West, primarily the United States. He told Tass that India considered the Soviet Union a steady and trusted friend.

The welcome for Mr Gandhi was no less lavish than those staged by Moscow for his late mother, Mrs Indira Gandhi.

He attended a Kremlin banquet last night.

Spanish unions fall out as jobless total climbs to 3m

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

As Spain's ruling socialists come under increasing criticism from trade unions and employers over plans to reform the social security system, official figures show the country's unemployment climbing inexorably towards the three million mark.

Statistics released on Monday show that 2,924,500 people were registered as unemployed on March 31. That represents 22 per cent of the working age population over 16. More than 1,100,000 are young people.

The figures were released by the National Institute of Statistics without any comment from Senor Miguel Boyer, the Economics Minister.

Senor Felipe Gonzalez, the Spanish Prime Minister has frequently claimed that tackling unemployment is his government's priority. But if the figures continue to climb pressure to call an early general election will inevitably mount.

The catalyst for the Government's deepening trouble has undoubtedly been the sharp dispute between Senor Gonzalez and the pro-socialist trade unions over reforming Spain's nearly bankrupt social security system. For the first time, evidently fearing workers' protests, Senor Gonzalez did not attend the May Day rally here.

The strain of the clash has split government's support. Next month, the unions are due to demonstrate alongside the communist-run workers' commissions against the reform. They maintain the charges will mean cuts in pensions, the government argues, however the goal that the goal is to prevent widespread fraud.

The Spanish employers' organization also opposes the reform and is accusing the Government of having broken the terms of a two-year "social compact".

Senor Joaquin Almunia, the Labour and Social Security Minister has written to Spain's 5,000,000 pensioners telling them they will not be affected the charges in the system.

Madrid moves on air traffic control

The Spanish Cabinet is to consider today a decree to ensure minimum essential services by the country's air traffic controllers, who are threatening to go on strike next June 3 and 4, a leading tourism official said yesterday (Our Madrid correspondent writes).

Senor Ignacio Fuego, who was talking to journalists, admitted a 20 per cent drop in British tourist bookings to Spain during the first four months of the year, compared to 1984. But he expressed doubt whether the recent rash of beach bombings at Mediterranean coast resorts had been the cause.

Sino-British deal comes into effect next week

From Mary Lee, Peking

The Sino-British joint declaration on Hong Kong will come into effect next Monday when all sides exchange the instruments of ratification of the agreement.

A simultaneous announcement in London, Peking and Hong Kong yesterday named the 10 members of the Sino-British Joint Liaison Group which will oversee the transfer of Hong Kong to China in 1997.

The British side will be led by Dr David Wilson, Assistant Under-Secretary of State for Asian Affairs at the Foreign Office, who headed the British working group during the negotiations last year.

Other members are: Mr Eric Ho, Hong Kong's Secretary for Trade and Industry, Mr John Boyd, the Hong Kong Government's Political Advisor, Mr Tony Galsworthy, Head of the Hong Kong Department at the FCO and Mr Peter Thompson, Counsellor at the British Embassy in Peking.

The Chinese side will be headed by Mr Ke Zai Shuo, who is Director of the Foreign Ministry's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office. Others in

his group are Mr Zheng Weirong, a Director in the State Council's Hong Kong and Macau office, Mr Qiao Zong Hual, the Deputy Secretary General of the Xinhua News Agency office in Hong Kong, Mr Chen Ziyang, Counsellor at the Chinese Embassy in London and Mr Ye Shoukeng, also of the Foreign Ministry's Hong Kong and Macau office.

An Embassy spokesman in Peking said Britain's choice of Mr Ho, who is a Hong Kong Chinese, was based on the need to have someone on the team who could deal with the issue of Hong Kong's continued participation as a signatory of GATT and other international trade agreements.

He described the initial problem of Mr Ho's membership of the British team thus: "We and the Chinese held different views on the nationality of people like Ho. The way round it was found when, on May 11, he applied for British citizenship under Section 4(5) of the Nationality Act which gives the Home Secretary discretion to register certain types of individuals as British citizens."

Pope given another lecture

From Ian Murray Brussels

The Pope ended his 10-day tour of the Benelux countries yesterday after hearing yet another speech by a woman critical of his teaching in the Catholic Church. The attack came from Miss Veronique Oruba, chairman of the General Assembly of Students of the Catholic university of Louvain-la-Neuve, in Belgium. She argued that the Church was out of touch with youth.

Church attitudes should not be confined to a defence of Christian principles, she said, because the Church had to provide actual proposals.

"The message that we receive from the Christian authorities seems to be far removed from reality," she said. "This message is even worrying. The recent stands taken towards Latin American peoples and the liberation theology, for instance, astonish young students."

In his long reply the Pope admitted that "public opinion, simple people, are questioning the Church about what they see in a confused kind of way". His response was to call on theology teachers to teach the doctrine of the Church more clearly.

Throughout his four-day visit to Belgium the Pope had to face criticism, particularly from women, on church doctrine on divorce, contraception and the role of women in the Church. The last of these points was one he never directly addressed.

Blaize banks on Caribbean defence treaty

By Henry Stanhope Diplomatic Correspondent

Countries in the eastern Caribbean expect to sign a mutual defence treaty next month in Grenada. Mr Herbert Blaize, Grenada's Prime Minister (above), said yesterday that he hoped the pact, which will codify existing arrangements would be concluded at the annual meeting of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States on June 10-15. Barbados though not a member of the organization, is also expected to sign.

Cuba, as a surrogate of the communist world, was only one of a number of threats to regional security, Mr Blaize told a press conference during his official visit to London.

Later he was to put proposals to Mr Timothy Raison, Minister for Overseas Development, in the hope that Britain might be persuaded to increase its aid as Grenada struggles to get back on to an "even keel" two years after a Marxist coup led to United States military intervention.

Atom test monitor rejects agent accusation

From Tony Daboudin, Melbourne

A nuclear physicist appointed by the Australian Government as one of the official observers for British atomic tests in Australia in the 1950s and 1960s has denied he was regarded by the British as a "special agent".

The charge was made at Monday's sitting of the royal commission investigating British nuclear tests in Australia.

The scientist, Sir Ernest Titterton, denied any political involvement and told Mr Justice James McClelland, who is heading the inquiry, that, in his opinion, all tests were carried out safely and did not endanger the Australian population.

Sir Ernest has denied several times that he would be party to any deception of the Australian

public. He emigrated from Britain in 1950, and is now head of the nuclear physics department at the Australian National University.

He was asked by the Menzies government to act as an observer at the British tests and later became chairman of the atomic weapons tests safety committee.

On Monday, Mr Peter McClelland, counsel assisting the commission, suggested that correspondence between British officials and Sir Ernest was important in gaining approval of some aspects of the tests.

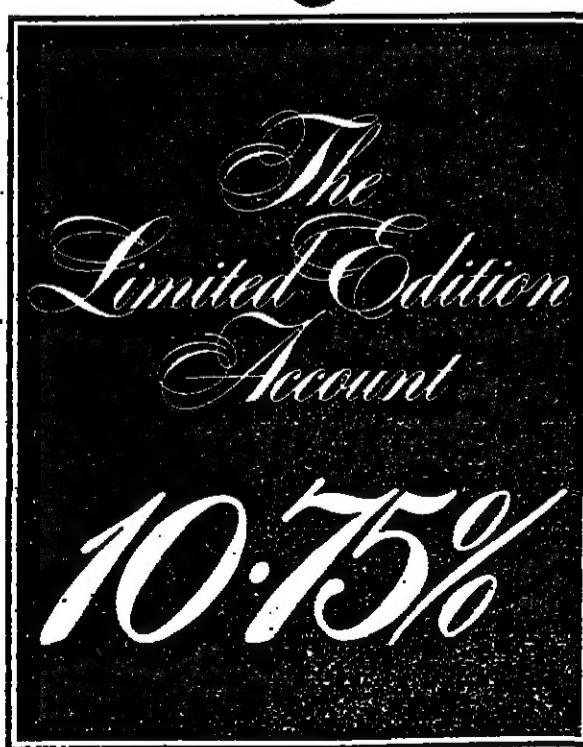
One letter suggested that Sir Ernest should be approached to "clear any possible political difficulties" in Australia, Mr McClelland said.

Another letter said Sir Ernest had "overplayed his hand" and was now having little influence other than in matters of safety.

Sir Ernest said he did not play "political games". The British had dealt with him only in regard to his position as chairman of the safety committee for the tests.

"They appreciated that I kept my minister and the Minister of Defence absolutely thoroughly informed."

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Arafat's men launch attack from new Beirut power base

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

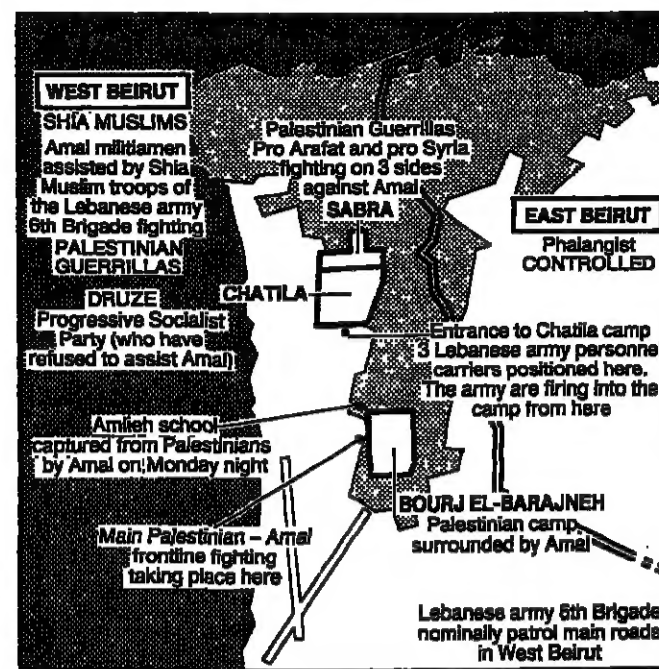
Almost three years after he was driven from Beirut with thousands of his Palestinian Liberation Organization followers, Yasser Arafat had yesterday consolidated a small army of loyal Palestinian guerrillas back in the Lebanese capital, having persuaded even those PLO men nominally loyal to Syria to change sides and fight alongside his own men. In Amman, Mr Arafat - clearly hoping that the re-establishment of his physical power in Lebanon will strengthen his negotiating position with the Israelis as well as those PLO men still taking orders from Damascus - claimed that the Palestinians in the Beirut camps were being "massacred" by their Shia Muslim opponents.

In fact, his own guerrillas were counter-attacking yesterday, fighting their way through the high-rise apartment blocks of the Fakhani district north of the Sabra camp as Shia Muslim Amal militiamen - apparently encouraged by Syria - tried to stem their offensive. Shia Muslim troops of the Lebanese Army's sixth brigade had earlier joined in the battle against the Palestinians at Chatila, positioning their armoured vehicles only 60 yards from the mass grave of those massacred there in 1982 and firing heavy machine guns into the camp.

Car-loads of Amal gunmen wearing red and black headbands arrived to stem the Palestinian advance near Fakhani while their leader, Mr Nabih Berri - still nominally a minister in the Lebanese Government - angrily claimed that Mr Arafat had "bought out" the pro-Syrian PLO men with large cash funds channelled into Beirut banks. Certainly, Mr Arafat has done this in the Ein Helwe camp in Sidon; equally certainly, rumours have been sweeping Beirut for some days that large transfers of dollars have been arriving in Lebanese financial institutions from the PLO's headquarters in Tunis.

"Abu Ammar [Mr Arafat] has bought them out," said Mr Berri. "His lavish spending is one of the reasons behind the decline of the dollar rate [in Lebanon]." If this is a somewhat exotic explanation of Lebanon's economic problems, it certainly reflects the fury with which both Mr Berri and the Syrians now regard the PLO renaissance in Beirut. On Mr Berri's own admission, 32 of his militiamen have been killed in the past two days of fighting while the Palestinians say they have lost at least 22.

More than 30 people, many of them civilians, have now died in the fighting and yesterday the International Red Cross appealed for a ceasefire to evacuate dozens of wounded Palestinians from the camps. To the south of Chatila, Amal militiamen have captured the wrecked four-story Anleish school from Palestinian gunmen on the edge of Bourj El-Barajneh, while sixth brigade soldiers said they were now able to patrol some streets in the Sabra camp which adjoins Chatila. Aal are now saying that the PLO have dug up hundreds of weapons from secret arms caches which the Israelis failed to discover after that massacre by Israeli Christian militia allies in 1982. Three years ago, of course, Amal and the PLO fought together against the Israelis; such alliances rarely last in Lebanon.



Husain gets ready for US trip

From Alice Brinton, Cairo

King Hussein of Jordan ended a brief visit to Egypt yesterday, but neither he nor President Mubarak would comment on their talks. The king's only statement was to say they had been "very, very excellent". Egyptian and Jordanian officials said the visit was to prepare for the king's talks next week with American officials in Washington, where he is due to meet President Reagan.

It was also revealed that the main topic discussed by President Mubarak and the Jordanian monarch was the issue of Palestinian representation in any future peace talks. Egypt and Jordan want Washington to open a dialogue with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation prior to any direct negotiations with the Israelis. The sticking point now is: who should represent the Palestinians?

A recent Middle East tour by the US Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, produced no tangible results on this issue.

● LONDON: King Hussein arrived in London yesterday on his way to the US (Henry Stanhope writes).

Today he is expected to see Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, or Mr Richard Luce, the Foreign Office minister with responsibility for the Middle East. He will not see Mrs Margaret Thatcher until next week, when he is due to make a similar stop on his way back from Washington.

The gunman of Lod Japan fears return of Red Army

From David Watts, Tokyo

The release of Kojo Okamoto, the only survivor of three Japanese who staged the Lod airport massacre of 1972, might be the spark that will reignite Red Army terrorism, it is feared in Japan.

Okamoto was with the 394 Palestinians who arrived in Tripoli yesterday morning just as the Japanese ambassador in Tel Aviv was passing on Japan's regrets at his release. The Japanese Government appealed in advance to the Israelis not to release Okamoto, who killed and injured 100 people at Lod airport. That request was turned down on Sunday, the Israeli saying that Okamoto was a key element in the agreement for the exchange of 1,100 Palestinians for three Israelis.

Mr Shintaro Abe, the Japanese Foreign Minister, said the request had been made on the ground that freeing Okamoto would inspire the Red Army and other terrorist groups and that the propriety of the decision was questionable under international law.

Okamoto arrived in Tripoli wearing fresh battle fatigues and a Palestinian scarf after changing out of the Red shirt and beige trousers he had worn on arrival in Switzerland for the exchange of prisoners.

An official of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine general command in Tripoli told the Japanese chargé d'affaires that Okamoto would rest in Libya for a week, then leave with the other Palestinians for Syria.

The Japanese national police agency, meanwhile, has issued a warrant for his arrest and alerted Interpol. According to Japanese law, Okamoto could be brought back to Japan and tried for the murder of the 26, mainly Puerto Rican, who died at Lod. In practice it will be difficult to get him back. Japan has no extradition treaty with any Middle East country, even if one was willing to hand him over, which seems unlikely.

Okamoto has always been a heroic symbol to the other 16 members of the Red Army still at large, most of them in the Bekaa Valley in eastern Lebanon, where Okamoto will most probably now go. How effective he will be is open to question.

When interviewed by an Israeli newspaper about two months ago he seemed barely in touch with reality and Japanese diplomats have cast doubt on his mental state. Although the Red Army has been quiet of late, Japanese embassies in Asia have been on alert for the two years ready for a new incident. Two years ago the Red Army was seeking new recruits in Japan. Whether they were successful remains unclear but the group probably still has funds remaining from the large amount paid out by the Japanese Government to free the passengers of a jet hijacked in 1977.

France may have two commercial TV channels

From Diana Geddes, Paris

There is at present room for only one or two commercial television channels in France, in addition to the three existing state-run channels and one pay-TV channel, according to a Government-sponsored report on the future of television broadcasting in France. The report, by M Jean-Denis Bredin, a lawyer and former vice-president of the centre-left Mouvements des Radicaux de Gauche party, was commissioned by the Government after President Mitterrand's announcement in January that he intended to break the 35-year state monopoly on television by allowing the creation of private channels.

The announcement caused a flurry of excitement and a stream of applications for licences to set up commercial television companies. More than 340 applications have been received to date.

But those who had been hoping for a thorough change in the French television system will be disappointed by the rigorous conditions and restrictions which surround the report's proposals for deregulation, and by the fact that it leaves intact the three state-owned channels.

At present, France has the technical capacity to enable only two new television channels to transmit to 17 million people, the report says, though their transmission range could be increased to cover the whole of the population once the telecommunications satellite TDFI comes into operation in mid-1986.

The report suggests that the new national channels be restricted to broadcasting between the hours of 7.30pm and 9am so as to allow local commercial television room to transmit on the same frequencies between 9am and 7.30pm. The creation of about 60 local commercial channels is envisaged.

In order to help ensure the commercial viability of the new channels, the report suggests that the amount of advertising on the three state-owned channels be frozen at its present level, and that the law banning certain types of advertising from television be relaxed so as to allow the advertising, for example, of real estate or distribution services.

20,000 Tamils face expulsion from 'separatist hide-out' area

From Michael Hamlyn, Colombo

A harsh proposal that will deliberately make refugees of more than 20,000 Tamils is being put forward by the Sri Lankan armed forces as part of the stiffening of security after the Anuradhapura massacre.

A government source said the proposal is to clear a whole district between the northern town of Vavuniya and Anuradhapura itself. It is the area around the little town of Chatikulam, where 20,700 Tamils make their homes. Only Tamils live there and three-quarters of the families have been in the district for a long time.

Under a notice given to the assistant government agent in charge of the area, they will all have to go north.

The armed forces say the area has become a terrorist hide-out, and they need a free-fire zone there. The country's Security Council has approved the decision, but the Vavuniya government agent has protested at the inhumanity of it. The issue is to be raised in the Cabinet today.

It is by far the largest movement of people yet undertaken by government forces. A number were moved from their homes in the Mullaitivu district last year after attacks on Sinhalese fishermen.

In another development, Buddhist leaders, started into action by the attack on the shrine at Anuradhapura, proposed talks to solve the ethnic crisis. They have also said security should be stepped up.

Though it was the conservatism of the Buddhist clergy which was largely to blame for the failure of last year's all-party talks to grant sufficient concessions to the Tamil community to settle the crisis, the religious leaders have proposed talks with the Tamils, with the Indian Government, with refugees, and with separatist organizations and the government of the Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

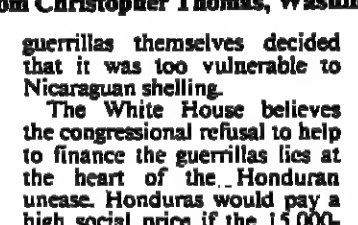
They have also proposed the setting up of a national security advisory and co-ordinating committee, which would function under a council of Buddhist mahanyake theras, roughly the equivalent of bishops, and include members of all political parties.

The committee would sit alongside the national security officials in premises and with staff provided by the Government, and would "recommend suitable steps" to protect the country from all internal and external terrorist attack.

The proposals were put forward at a meeting called at the weekend by one of the two most senior mahanyake theras, the Venerable Palipane Chandananda, mahanyake of the Asgiriya chapter of the Buddhist priesthood. He was joined by the other top cleric, the mahanyake of the Malwatte, the Venerable Srimawatta Ananda.

The meeting, held in Kandy, the seat of both chapters, was attended by leaders of the principal opposition parties, including Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike, the former prime minister and leader of the Sirimavo Freedom Party. Though a member of the ruling United National Party was also invited, he declined to attend.

Evidently deciding that the Government was being urged by the Buddhist high priests, President Jayewardene has called his own meeting, for today, heads of all the main religions in the country. Western initiative, page 14



Honduran quest for security

Reassuring words for Suazo

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Reagan yesterday reaffirmed US commitment to the security of Honduras, the impoverished little republic that is uncomfortably in the centre of the US battle against the leftist Government in Nicaragua.

President Roberto Suazo Cordova had talks then lunch at the White House yesterday with President Reagan in the hope of getting a formal undertaking that the US would intervene if Nicaragua were invaded. Instead he got a symbolically important form of words, but not the specific security arrangement he had sought.

President Reagan made it clear that the US remains committed to Honduran security through the mutual assistance pact, known as the Rio Treaty. He gave fulsome, though generalized, assurances that the United States would not stand idly by if Honduras encountered serious hostilities from its southern neighbour.

Honduras is a key country in the US strategy against the Sandinista regime. There are almost continuous US military manoeuvres in Honduras. Its tiny coffee-and-banana economy is held afloat by the US.

The Nicaraguan Democratic Force, the main anti-Sandinista guerrilla group, operates out of Honduras. Administration officials concede that the Honduran military is clamping down on the guerrillas in an apparent attempt to reduce border hostilities between the rebels and Sandinista troops.

Tension along the border has increased dramatically recently. US officials say the main guerrilla camp, known as Las Vegas, about ten miles inside Honduras, has been abandoned by most guerrillas - partly because Honduras wanted to move it away from the border region, and partly because the

guerrillas themselves decided that it was too vulnerable to Nicaraguan shelling.

The White House believes the congressional refusal to help to finance the guerrillas lies at the heart of the Honduran unease. Honduras would pay a high social price if the 15,000-man guerrilla force fell apart.

Mr Reagan assured President Suazo that the mood on Capitol Hill appeared to have changed and that Congress might shortly approve an immediate \$14 million (£10.8 million) of non-military aid to the guerrillas. In

the longer-term, however, he was unable to offer any written pledge.

The US is worried that Honduran pressure on the guerrillas to move back from the border will weaken the rebels' campaign. Senior Carlos Tuner, the Nicaraguan Ambassador to the US, told *The Times* that Sandinista forces had driven most of the guerrillas back into Honduras, but that there were still areas of "counter-revolutionary" activity inside Nicaragua.

Electoral reforms avert constitutional crisis

From Alan Tomlinson, Tegucigalpa

Political parties and trade unions in Honduras reached a compromise solution to a two-month-old constitutional crisis yesterday, averting a general strike. The signed document agreeing to electoral reforms and the restructuring of the Supreme Court, which will allow candidates chosen by the numerous factions of the parties to stand for the presidency at general elections in November.

The accord was reached in 10 hours of talks between most of the belligerent groups in the dispute at a meeting which took place, symbolically as well as for privacy, in the officers' club at the air force base on the outskirts of the capital. One leftist politician noted that the crucial intervention of the armed forces in settling the crisis showed that they were still the dominant factor in Honduran politics, despite four years of civilian rule.

But the two main parties seemed content. "This is a very satisfactory deal," said a leading Liberal, Señor Efraín Bu Giron. "There have been neither

winner nor losers," said Señor Ricardo Zúñiga Augustinus, a prominent nationalist.

The most immediate consequence of the deal will be released from prison after 53 days of Señor Ramon Valladares, who was arrested on a charge of treason after the Congress named him head of the Supreme court in a challenge to the authority of President Roberto Suazo Cordova.

The unions, which supported dissident politicians seeking to prevent the President from imposing his own successor on the country, had threatened to go on strike this week unless the crisis was settled in their favour. They are also seeking greater participation in future political decisions.

The crisis was resolved in the absence of President Suazo and the head of the armed forces, General Walter Lopez, who were in Washington for talks yesterday with President Reagan. But the basis for agreement had been reached before they left on Sunday.

Howe warming to 'Eureka'

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris

A shift in the British position of the "Eureka" project to secure positive support for the French initiative on European cooperation in space and high-technology research was made clear here yesterday by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, in talks with M Roland Dumas, his French counterpart. Britain seemed cool towards

the project when it was announced by the French last month, but now appears to have been convinced in recent bilateral discussions with the French that Europe must do something to counter the Japanese and American technological challenge and the "Eureka" might provide the practical way forward.

Sir Geoffrey indicated to M Dumas that Britain would be happy to see the setting up of a group of experts from interested countries with a view to examining how the ideas of Europe could be taken forward. Sir Geoffrey was in Paris for the regular meeting between French and British foreign ministers.

Deal signed to double Pepsi sales in Russia

Moscow (AP) - PepsiCo Inc and the Soviet Government yesterday signed a new trade agreement expected to double production and sales of Pepsi-Cola in the Soviet Union over the next five years.

The agreement runs until 1990 and expands a previous arrangement for the exchange marketing of Pepsi-Cola in the Soviet Union and Stolichnaya vodka in the United States. It follows last week's drastic measures to cut the high level of drunkenness in the Soviet Union.

Retail sales of Pepsi-Cola in the Soviet Union are about \$200 million (£156 million) annually, and US sales of Stolichnaya about half that, PepsiCo chief executive, Mr. Donald Kendall, said.

Promotion for Caledonia envoy

Paris (AP) - M Laurent Fabius, the French Prime Minister, has promoted M Edgar Pisani, the Government's High Commissioner and special envoy in the troubled Pacific territory of New Caledonia, to the rank of Minister for New Caledonia. His replacement is M Fernand Wibaux, until recently ambassador to Lebanon.

In a separate move, M Fabius promoted Mme Yvette Roudy from junior minister to full Minister for the Rights of Women.

Spain to unveil Picasso work

Madrid - A bronze statue more than six feet tall, which the late Pablo Picasso dedicated to the Spanish republic but has seldom been exhibited, goes on public display tomorrow for the first time in Spain (Harry Debelius writes).

"The Offering Lady", also known as "The Woman With a Vase", was first displayed at the 1937 exposition in Paris. It was returned to Spain after negotiations with the artist's family.

Iran bombed

Teheran (AFP) - Iraq resumed bombing raids against civilian targets in Iran with attacks on the industrial zone of Ahwaz, in Khuzestan province and two oilfields in Lorestan province, the Iran news agency reported.

Famine exodus

Nairobi Ethiopian refugees have begun an exodus from camps in Sudan to their homes in Tigré province, the High Commission for Refugees said. About 35,000 men, women and children have set off so far.

Killer cure

Melbourne (Reuters) - A three-year-old girl has died after her parents put her on a water-only diet for a month in the belief it would wash away a cold, police said.

Travolta protest



John Travolta the actor and the jazz musician Chick Corea joined an estimated 1,000 members of the Church of Scientology protesting against a courts, \$38 million (\$30 million) damages judgement against the church. "I've been a Scientologist for 10 years now," Travolta said.

Kabul blasts

Islamabad, (Reuters) - At least six people were killed when bombers broke up an army conscription drive in Kabul and attacked a billiard hall frequented by secret police, Western diplomats said.

Visa retribution

Frankfurt (AFP) - Three Russian Baptists who applied for emigration visas to West Germany have been sentenced to up to three years in a Soviet disciplinary camp, the International Human Rights Society said.

Finn visitor

Mr Kalevi Sorsa, the Prime Minister of Finland, arrived in London yesterday for a two-day visit during which he will meet Mrs Thatcher and open the "Sea Finland" exhibition at the National Maritime Museum.

Hot night

Peking (AP) - A Shanghai worker who asked a hospital for medicine to help him sleep received a bottle of sulphuric acid and was in a critical condition with severe burns on his face, throat and stomach lining, a Chinese newspaper reported.

UK submarine design rejected by Australians

By Rodney Corvett, Australia Correspondent

Australia announced yesterday that it had shortlisted a West German and a Swedish design in a competition to supply it with six submarines in a project likely to cost more than £1,000 million.

The decision to proceed to the "project definition" stage with the two designs came as a big disappointment to Vickers, of Barrow-in-Furness, which had offered an adaptation of the Royal Navy's new Type 2400 Upholder class of diesel-powered submarine.

Mr Frank Noah, commercial director of Vickers, said that though the West German and Swedish designs had reached the project definition stage it did not mean they would necessarily win production contracts.

Vickers would welcome the opportunity to show the Australians the Type 2400 when in operation, before they signed contracts for the West German and Swedish "paper" designs. Submarine experts were astonished by the German and Swedish vessels were unlikely to be adopted by their own navies. The Australian decision is a double defeat for Britain, which also failed to be selected as one of the two candidates for more study to provide the combat system for the boats.



Victims of war: Palestinian refugees huddling in a basement shelter at Chatila camp, west Beirut, yesterday as fighting continued between PLO guerrillas and Shia militiamen.

Superpowers agree to expand trade

From Richard Owen, Moscow

The two superpowers reached broad but limited agreement on boosting economic relations yesterday, but Mr Malcolm Baldrige, the US Commerce Secretary, cautioned against expecting any big upturn in trade.

"It was a good start, but there are still a lot of problems," Mr Baldrige said after the two-day talks with the veteran Soviet Foreign Trade Minister, Mr Nikolai Patolichev, the highest-level commercial encounter

between the two countries since 1978.

A fundamental change in trade relations could come only if there were parallel improvements in other areas, he said. Mr Baldrige made it clear that there had been no discussion of strategic or military sensitive goods but said the talks had produced a number of minor changes for the better.

The most significant appeared to be Moscow's undertaking to inform all Soviet foreign trade companies to examine US trade offers on purely economic grounds and

leave aside politics.

"I believe this action will do much to encourage US companies that they will find improved access to Soviet markets," Mr Baldrige said, adding that Soviet organizations have signed contracts with US companies worth more than \$40 million (£30.5 million) since lower-level talks in January.

"We will see an increase in trade, but I don't think we should expect a major increase, a kind of one-day turnover," he said.

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Warsaw Pact could win on land 'within 15 years'

From Frederick Bonnard, Brussels

Soviet conventional forces will be able with hope of success to launch a full-scale surprise attack on Nato within 15 years, it is claimed in a secret report, agreed by the top military commanders of all members of the Alliance to be considered by Nato defence ministers in Brussels today.

The report is a commissioned assessment of the threats to Western security over the next 20 years, and the measures needed to counter them.

According to a senior Nato military source yesterday: "The Soviet Union has initiated measures which could, probably lead within a time-span of 15 years to the capability which they think is necessary to challenge the conventional military strength of Nato without necessarily taking the risk of escalation."

Such an attack, he said, could follow "an ambiguous or very, very short warning", making it impossible for the Alliance to mobilize its forces in time.

General Cornelius de Jager, chairman of the Military Committee, told a press conference that the gap between Nato and the Warsaw Pact forces was continuing to increase, mainly because modernization of equipment was raising the number of weapons systems with Soviet forward forces.

The report is to become known in Nato jargon as the Conceptual Military Framework (CMF) and is to provide Nato and national military planners with guidelines into the next century. Modern technology is seen as central in keeping Nato ahead of the Warsaw pact. The report will help defence ministers to plan procurement of costly defence systems within a tight budget.

Divided WEU puts off Star Wars discussion

Paris (AFP) - The Western European Union decision to abstain from officially discussing the controversial US Star Wars programme at its session here has created a stormy debate on the sidelines of the assembly.

The WEU defence committee voted before the session opened on Monday to postpone until the December session any discussion of a report by Mr Harry van den Bergh, a Dutch Labour MP, on the US Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI).

The contents of the report are not yet known and no official explanation has been offered for the postponement.

MPs from the seven WEU member countries were expected this week to try to coordinate their response to the US project.

Observers here saw the decision as evidence of the continuing serious differences

which prevented WEU defence and foreign ministers from drafting a joint response to SDI at a meeting in Bonn last month.

Mr van den Bergh, who said he felt the Europeans should give priority to a common technological research programme before any participation in SDI, denounced the Commission's refusal as "totally incomprehensible".

He also asserted that it detracted from the credibility of WEU's pledge to "reactivate" the assembly, which is the sole European organization with jurisdiction over defence matters.

The WEU, which comprises Belgium, Britain, France, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands and West Germany, has been largely dormant for the past three decades, and there is now a move within the body to reactivate it.

Austria buys Saab jets

From Richard Bassett, Vienna

Austria took a long-awaited step towards improving her defences when a contract was signed yesterday with the Swedish group, SAAB, for 24 Draken interceptors. The jets, the first to be delivered in 1987, will be expected to police Austrian air-space for 10 years.

The decision to purchase the aircraft announced earlier this year, has provoked protests from pacifist and opposition groups. Nine thousand people demonstrated at the weekend in Styria, where the jets will be based.

The decision has also angered Swedish military experts in the Austrian defence ministry, who

are believed to have favoured the purchase of British Lightnings. Although the model is as old as the Draken, the British plane is considered better.

Although the jets will cost only about £90 million, there is considerable opposition in Austria to money being spent on defence. This body would appear to have influenced the Government to purchase jets from a neutral country. Austria's eastern neighbours warned her last year that they would view with misgiving the purchase of jets from a Nato country and pressure from this quarter would also appear to be behind the Swedish choice.

Greek battle for votes: 3

Communist hopes hinge on a hung parliament

Mario Modiano discusses the prospects for the Communists in this final article of his three-part series on the election campaign.

For the first time since the civil war some 40 years ago, the Greek communists have a real possibility of power if the June 2 elections produce a hung parliament.

Barring surprises, the new voting system makes it hard for either of the two main parties, the Pasok socialists and the New Democracy conservatives, to win an overall majority in the new 300-seat parliament.

So the main aim of the campaign launched by the pro-Soviet Communist Party of Greece (KKE) is a substantial increase in its traditional share of the electorate, which ranges between 11 and 12 per cent, to force the ruling socialists into partnership.

The KKE accuses Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Prime Minister, of coming to power in 1981 on a platform of radical change, then, after taking a few positive measures, reverting to policies which have left the country dependent on the West and at the mercy of the local oligarchy.

The party is urging voters if they want "real change" to deny Pasok a working majority and compel it to fall back on KKE support to remain in power.

Mr Harilaos Florakis, party leader and Secretary-General of the Central Committee, says the KKE is ready to support a Pasok government provided it agrees on a minimum common programme to resolve the problems of the economy, of national independence and of democracy.

The KKE wants Greece out of Nato and the European Community, as well as the removal of US bases and nuclear arms. But it seems ready to negotiate a "reasonable" timetable for such drastic steps.

One demand on which the KKE would be adamant is the return of the proportional representation system to end the monopoly of power the two big parties secured for themselves by "putting the Left in quarantine".

Under the simple PR system, the KKE parliamentary seats could be increased from 13 to 35. Furthermore, the other parties could not win single-handed unless they polled 50 per cent or more of the national vote.

The Communist voice in Greece would have been far more audible if the party had not split in 1968 in the wake of the Czechoslovak crisis. The dissidents set up the so-called "KKE of the Interior" and pursued a Eurocommunist line.

Efforts to reunify the party stumbled on differences of dogma and over the title of the breakaway group, but in the European elections a year ago the Euro-communists, who mainly appeal to the intelligentsia, won 3.4 per cent of the vote, largely thanks to their charismatic leader, Mr Leonidas Kyrkos.

Pasok's efforts to frighten the Communist voter into supporting it or taking the risk of a right-wing backlash, is likely to take its toll on both. But the polarization is forcing the smaller left and centre parties to bundle for survival under the wing of the two giants.

One extreme right-wing party, the National Political Union (EPEN) which calls its jailed former dictator, Mr George Papadopoulos, its leader, decided to stand alone on a platform centred on the release of the junta leaders from prison. It has one deputy in the European Parliament.

In all, of the about 700 political parties registered with the Greek Supreme Court, only 16 are taking part in the June 2 election, including a group with the archaic name of Olympe Democracy.

Concluded

Carrington's balancing act

Man of influence but no power

From Ian Murray and Frederick Bonnard, Brussels

Lord Carrington, as he freely admits, is a man without power. As Secretary-General of Nato, he claims only to have influence. But it is a very powerful influence.

For those who work there his presence pervades and brightens the drab corridors of the Brussels headquarters. Ten months after taking office, the honeymoon period continues and it is difficult to find anyone with a bad word to say about him.

His arrival last June was like a breath of fresh air. Morale within Nato itself was not high, partly due to the way his predecessor worked. Dr Joseph Luns operated almost in isolation from the rest of the secretariat, relying mainly on his private office. There was no playback between the crew and the captain, and the crew seemed not entirely sure of where the ship was going.

From the moment he arrived, Lord Carrington set about bringing everyone into what was going on. Memos began moving back and forth, up and down the command structure. He would start an inquiry and send back his thanks - or criticisms - when the answer came. A sense of teamwork and personal involvement began to creep in. Voluntary overtime became more and more frequent.

The short final communiqué which will be agreed by this week's meeting of Nato defence



Lord Carrington: Breath of fresh air at Nato HQ

ministers here will prove by its concise style that a new hand is at the helm.

The subjects under negotiation within the Alliance are being moved on towards a solution. Vital if routine matters, such as ammunition supplies, hardening of aircraft shelters, training of reserves

and co-operation in armaments production are no longer being kicked around in endless arguments. They have taken on a new sense of urgency.

With cruise and Pershing missiles being deployed when he arrived, one main controversy within the Alliance was out of the way, but the next -

"Star Wars" - was just beginning. This is where he showed that he was far more than a public relations agent but, as one Nato ambassador said, "a highly political animal".

His speeches are strategically placed and carefully timed to have definite effects. He goes

to great lengths to research his audience so that he knows just how to pitch what he has to say. The underlying message is always the same: the east and west pillars of the Atlantic together must support the Alliance.

He says this repeatedly and courageously at the risk of being identified by Europeans as an American lap-dog. He supports Star Wars research and points out that offensive and defensive weapons cannot be considered in isolation.

He is now concentrating his speeches on hammering home the warning that "Moscow gives every sign of wanting to play the Strategic Defence Initiative for all it may be worth as a way of splitting the Alliance". The United States must act "with the firm and visible support of its European allies", he insists.

He is very frank with Washington about European requirements, but he also firmly believes that "Europe wants to get its act together".

Mr David Absigire, the US Nato Ambassador, summed him up recently as "a man around whom you can build excitement and expectation". That fits with the Secretary-General's own view of his role as that of a catalyst.

The chemicals he is working with, however, are varied and volatile. It takes all Lord Carrington's powers of influence to control their inter-reaction.

Paris deals young a trump card

From Diana Geddes, Paris

For less than £5, a new "youth card" will be available in France from the beginning of next month enabling anyone under the age of 26, including foreigners, to benefit from a wide range of impressive reductions covering travel, lodging, restaurants, culture, sport, insurance and even computers.

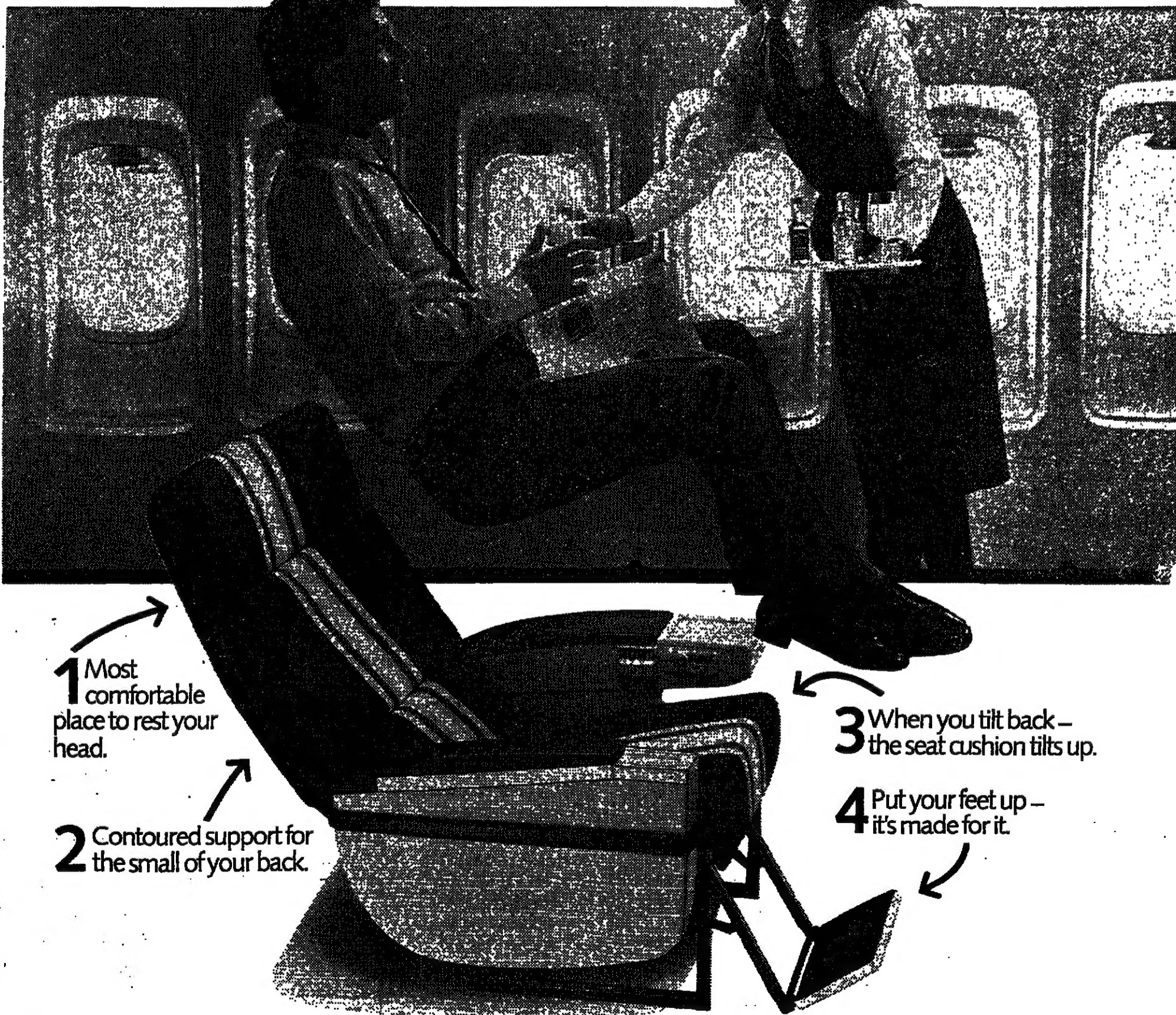
The yellow plastic card, costing 50 francs (£4.10) for one year, will be on sale from June 3 at 6,000 outlets throughout France, including tourist offices, certain banks, town halls, and youth information centres. A free guide will be provided with the card giving more than 4,000 addresses where the benefits are available.

The reductions range from 10 per cent on certain electronic goods and computers to free entry at publicly owned theatres, museums, libraries and certain cinema clubs.

All the benefits at present enjoyed only by students will now be available to any young person. During the summer vacation university lodgings will be made available to youth card holders at a cost of 35 francs a night.

Reductions for young people of up to 30 per cent are being offered by some hotel chains for organized holidays in France and abroad. Camp sites too will be cheaper for card-holders.

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Leading the way to the USA



THE ARTS

Opera

Only the Italians rise to Rossini's patter

La Cenerentola
Glyndebourne

This year Glyndebourne is riding, as well it might, on the wave of recent successes, and the production of *La Cenerentola* that opened the festival on Monday is the oldest we shall see, even though it was introduced only two years ago. Then it was sheer delight, and visually it still is. Allen Charles Klein sets the opera in a toy theatre of cardboard cut-out scenery and false perspectives peopled by *café au lait* cavaliers who are at once childlike and decadent: it is a combination of qualities eminently suited to Rossini, and a third essential, wit, is well provided in John Cox's production, revived by Andy Hinds.

Musically, however, the evening is less uniformly brilliant than before. The only survivors from the 1983 cast are Marta Taddei and Laura Zannini, who repeat their comic double act as the ugly sisters: Miss Taddei looking a little like Queen Anne and sounding creamy, while Miss Zannini is a scatty urchin with a more acid edge to her voice. Both have a command of the abundant patter that is matched only by the other Italians on stage.

Of these, Alessandro Corbelli



Spectacular popinjay: Alessandro Corbelli with Marta Taddei (left) and Laura Zannini

makes a striking house debut as Dandini, being at once strong and suave of voice, beautifully sure of himself, and highly skilled at using his small stature to play the popinjay the more effectively. Ciccio Bruscantini will be remembered by older patrons as the Dandini of the previous production, back in the 1950s. He now returns as a splendid Don Magnifico, whose voice equals the expressiveness of his eyes: they can stare out in disbelief and astonishment, light up with sudden and, alas, momentary understanding, or

most usually, hang down at the corners like those of a much put-upon dog. The new Cinderella is Carolyn Watkinson, who has sung the role on tour. She lacks somewhat the attention-grabbing presence of Kathleen Kuhlmann, who returns to the part later in the season, substituting a natural sound and a shy, pathetic interpretation accentuated by her pallid make-up. Indeed, she finds it hard to sustain a note in the middle register without opening up a gulf of melancholy, and so one

is never very convinced that she has come out on top. There is also the difficulty of her awkwardness in *fortitudo* and in sudden high notes, which again robs her last aria of climactic exultation. Robert Gambill, as the prince, also has vocal problems. In the upper register, his tone thins, becoming almost *falsetto* above the staff, and he, too, finds it hard to negotiate all the bubbling ornamentation of Rossini's lines. Willard White as Alidoro, however, shows a good feeling for the style.

lightening his rounded sonority without losing his authority. He also looks quite properly like the real monarch of these machinations: a Landian bishop with the head of a black lion. There is not the same immediate leadership from the pit. The London Philharmonic have not yet settled into their summer home, and James Judd is not everywhere successful in realizing the same tempo on the stage as in the orchestra.

Paul Griffiths

Theatre

Asserting nature's primacy

Woyzeck
Almeida

Rounding off the Leicester Haymarket Studio season, this production of *Woyzeck* is an interesting event but not at all what you might suppose from advance testimonials to its psychological penetration.

Far from taking you inside the head of Büchner's hero, Les Waters's production presents him strictly as a zero in the social equation, building up the odds against him so as to suggest that no matter who he may have been he would not have stood a chance of survival. Woyzeck's masters are always giving him uplifting advice. Exercise will-power, they tell him; strive to acquire virtue, and don't rush about so much. Woyzeck's answer is always the same. Virtue and will-power are luxuries of the rich.

For "people like us" there is only nature, and it is the conspiracy of his social betters to take even that away from

him. His time is not his own (he is always on duty); nor his woman; nor even his own body, which has been appropriated for medical research.

In pursuit of this well-judged view of the text, Mr Waters resorts to some extravagant underlining. To assert the primacy of nature, the whole performance is staged in the wood, and the opening scene with the Captain is displaced in favour of Woyzeck's doomsday conversation with Andres in preparation for the murder of Marie. The ensuing narrative unfolds in spasms of abrupt grotesque action, reaching a climax in a ghastly garret scene backed with a blood-red cyclorama.

In a scene near to me, the corpses arrive on mortuary trolleys for the doctor indignantly to berate the lifeless Woyzeck for having shed the blood that rightly belongs to him. Andres then returns to the scene of the crime and finds blood oozing from the earth.

It makes a neatly compelling pattern. Büchner always invites directorial licence, and in the

best production I have seen of this play, Charles Marowitz took liberties far in excess of Mr Waters's version. The objection is simply that it sacrifices character to shape.

Bernard Strohmer, except in his speeches on nature, emerges as no more than an increasingly frantic victim, locked into servant and master routines, and barely relating to Hazel Ellerby's Marie.

As for the masters, Frank Baker (the Captain) and Linda Bassett (the Doctor) limit themselves to shows of status with authoritarian sneers and barked orders often in open contradiction of the relaxed paternalistic dialogue.

It is one of the bitter masterstrokes of this play that they are quite fond of Woyzeck, and are sorry to see him go. Played as they are here, character shatters into self-contradiction. The style only succeeds in the case of Michael Mead's Drum Major, seducing Marie with an expert phallic display of baton-twirling.

Irving Wardle

Cannes Film Festival

The main awards at Cannes, as reported in yesterday's later editions, were:

Palme d'Or: *Daddy's on a Business Trip* (Enik Kusturica, Yugoslavia)
Grand Prix of the Jury: *Colonel Redl* (István Szabó, Hungary)
Special Grand Prix of the Jury: *Birdy* (Alan Parker, USA)
Best Actor: William Hurt (*Kiss of the Spider Woman*, Brazil)
Best Actress: Cher (*Mask*, USA)

Norma Aleandro (*Official History*, Argentina)
Best Direction: André Techiné (*Rendez-vous*, France)
Best Artistic Contribution: Paul Schrader (*Mishima*, USA)
Technicalians' Prize: Nicholas Roeg (*Insignificance*, GB)
International Critics' Prize: *Daddy's on a Business Trip* (Kusturica); *Purple Rose of Cairo* (Woody Allen, USA)
International Trophy for Life's Work: James Stewart

London début

There are numerous possible ways of seating a wind quintet, and at the Wigmore Hall the Lyric Wind Ensemble demonstrated perhaps the worst permutation. Bassoonist and horn player (admittedly a fine one, Susan Dent) occupied the prominent end-seats; the flautist was tucked out of sight, and sometimes hearing. Whether this accounted for the lack of caprice in Ibert's normally ebullient *Trois Pièces brèves* one could not say. There were also some inaccuracies in the difficult passage-work.

Matters improved markedly when the sure-fingered Malay-

sian pianist Yeoh Ean Mei joined the winds, for the Mozart Quintet, K452, Poulenc's Sextet and Madeleine Dring's Trio for flute, oboe and piano - this last brimming with musical jokes. Miss Mei's presence seemed to bring more muscle to the interpretations, dispelling the notion that the players were taking the line of least resistance through the music. Without her they did catch some of the quirky folkiness of Ligeti's early Six Bagatelles, however, even if the rhythmic ingenuities caused a few ensemble problems.

Richard Morrison

Dance

Merce Cunningham
Sadler's Wells

Two more works given by Merce Cunningham's company on Monday brought the total for their London season to 10, being given in four programmes for the rest of the week. Since the emphasis in Cunningham's recent creations is on abstract dance patterns, one welcomes the hints of drama in *Native Green* even if its nature is deliberately occult.

The initial grouping of three couples suggests expectancy, their subsequent circlings contain a curious birdlike head movement for one of the men, and at the end they pick up a long flexible pipe from the floor and clutch at it as if for support.

John King's music is played on a small bowed instrument, but by the time it has passed through the battery of wires and keyboards in the pit it sounds more like a steelyard.

Even in this work, the real interest lies in the quality of movement. Cunningham finds a slightly different manner for each work, and his dancers have

marvellous control and energy, especially well shown in *Trails*, where one dancer episode succeeds another, to John Cage's *Instances of Silence*, like a modern-dance equivalent of *Aurora's Wedding*, all pure display.

In the days when Cunningham presented a varied repertoire with comic, dramatic or lyric pieces as well as straight dancing, it was easier for a new audience to follow him. To take in the present, almost entirely abstract, repertoire with the concentration its individual works demand is exhausting, and in the circumstances the vociferous enthusiasm of his audiences is impressive.

The season marks the twenty-first anniversary of Cunningham's first London visit. In another 21 years he will still be younger than Martha Graham is now, and what changes might we see then?

Best to catch his present phase while it is here. And, for anyone who cannot manage all four programmes, *Pictures* (given tonight and Friday) is the new work most people seem to have liked best.

John Percival

Concert

Maurizio Pollini
Festival Hall

Schoenberg makes sense. That obvious proposition is still continually contradicted not only by the reassertion of prejudice but also by the aural evidence of far too many performances: it is nowhere more tellingly proved than in Pollini's piano playing.

In his hands, the tiniest fragment of Schoenberg can sound as supple, as powerful, as wildly expressive and as intensely moving as a whole Mahler symphony. The parallel is apt: for this recital (which also included Berg and Beethoven) was Pollini's contribution to the present "Mahler, Vienna and the Twentieth Century" festival. Nothing in the three sets of Schoenberg pieces he played was more telling than the tiny 10-bar fragment which ends Op 19 - which Schoenberg wrote after hearing of Mahler's death.

Fragment is a silly word for music at once so perfectly whole and so substantial as this. Pollini made the repeated three-note chord an ethereal, far-off funeral bell, with its companion three-note chord chiming like a desolate echo beneath it. The

music concentrated itself into an anguished single-line lament, just five notes long; a strict gesture to bring back the music's pulse, and then, a final echo of the chords, as Schoenberg wrote (and Pollini realized quite perfectly until the very last note into maudlinity) "like a breath".

Around this most Webern-like of Schoenberg's masterpieces, Pollini created marvels of feverish intensity and brooding gloom in the Op 11 pieces, and of brighter, more clearly articulated emotion in the Op 23 pieces. His touch, quite light in the treble, but darkly coloured in the alto and tenor registers, and precisely balanced in the bass, is ideal for this music. The little high flourishes in Op 11 No 2 can be thrown like *astuzia* as the bass rumbles its *astuzia*. The yearning melody, which Pollini shapes as naturally as if it were Schubert, is given a tone-colour all its own (in Berg, however, the lack of real depth in the treble is more of a drawback, and deprives the climaxes of true warmth and weight). But in Pollini's Schoenberg every note is precisely in place, precisely understood, and precisely communicated.

Nicholas Kenyon

Galleries

John Russell Taylor
assesses the new
Francis Bacon show
at the Tate

A master of deep disquiet

None should guess more accurately than Francis Bacon, inveterate gambler that in private life he is, the risks attached to a major retrospective. Though sometimes - very occasionally - retrospectives enhance an artist's reputation, much more frequently they reduce it by a species of overkill, showing us the weak points we might barely guess at seeing works one by one or in small and carefully selected groups. The recent London shows devoted to Renoir and Chagall enjoyed record audiences, but then, so do some bullfights, and the motivation of those attending may well be somewhat similar: the desire to observe a battle against overwhelming odds; the unadmitted hope of being in the kill.

All the same, Bacon has taken the challenge, accepting that the chances are against him: the big show (120 paintings) at the Tate Gallery until August 18 is even the second he has had there.

For Bacon, who does not produce drawings or graphics, works almost always on a large scale and is not in any case enormously prolific, it amounts to putting the major part of his surviving work on display in 1944 on show; despite his own statements that he "regrets" two important groups, the screaming popes and the Van Gogh cycle, and rumours that he hoped they might not be included, they are still there. With the same mixture of openness and impenetrable mystery of motivation which governs his publication of his private life, he has elected to go for broke, permit himself artistically to be totally known (or at least totally observed), and take the consequences.

The gamble pays magnificently. Though we may be left asking ourselves, with one of Pinter's heroes, "What have I seen, the scum or the essence?" the show leaves little room for doubt that we are in the presence of a very great painter indeed. The inviolable with Pinter, once invoked, will not go away. Their imaginative worlds are similarly haunted, their artistic means as meticulous, the ultimate sources of their inspiration as obscure - even, one suspects, to themselves - and the climate of violence which pervades their



Existential unease in Bacon's *Two Studies for a Portrait of George Dyer* (1968)

work is created or re-created with the same total urbanity of expression, not a word or a brush-stroke too many, nothing anywhere which is slapdash or arbitrary.

Bacon has spoken of the violence in his work as "suggestions within the image itself which can only be conveyed through paint", and dissociates himself from the expressionists who use paint itself in a violent way: what one feels looking at this extraordinary succession of painted images is not a simple physical revulsion, but a nagging existential unease impossible either to explain or to shrug off.

If we say that the show is profoundly disturbing we must give equal weight to the adverb and the adjective. The horror of Bacon's vision is buried deep within the image, and out of them a terrible beauty is born. Bacon has sometimes been suspected of being merely provocative and perverse when he rhapsodizes about the beautiful colours of meat in a butcher's shop, but here one can see and feel precisely what he means: like all great artists he re-educates us as we go along, drawing us inexorably into his world, to see things through his eyes.

One might expect such a parade of horrors and deformations to anesthetize our responses - especially since Bacon's repertoire of motifs is relatively small and his style shows little evolution during the last 30 years, since the Van Gogh series in the mid-Fifties.

But, as with all truly obsessive artists, a species of telepathy plays a very important role in the way we react: the quality of his emotion face-to-face with his canvases somehow dictates the quality of ours. And there are surprisingly few works here where the emotion seems to become merely a conditioned reflex: a few painted in the mid-Seventies, perhaps, but if so there is a remarkable recovery in his work of the Eighties, dominated by a series of "landscapes" without or minimizing the human figure: the first *Sand Dune* (1981), for instance, with its subterranean suggestions of flesh as well as impersonal place, is one of the most astonishing and disturbing images even he has ever produced.

And, if there is an element of anaesthesia, it is of a very different and beneficial sort. It gradually lulls us into acceptance of the pain and the horror of the images, but only to sharpen and liberate our aesthetic perceptions. Bacon is one of the century's great colourists, and there is nothing in this most painterly of painters does not know about how to apply pigment to canvas for maximum effect. He is right: raw meat is beautiful. Our acceptance of this modifies and enlarges our sensibilities in a way that no other painter has been able to do since the first Cubist revolution. Go by any means to see the show; you may hate every moment, but I can guarantee that you will never be quite the same again.

Television

Savage treatment

John Pilger's role as the voice of conscience lends him a forbidding, almost a deterrent, aura: seeing him one knows one is sure to hear something disconcerting.

Last night in Central's *The Secret Country*, The First Australians he and his fellow-Australians, the director Alan Lowery, were in their own country and concerned about its first inhabitants, the Aborigines. Australia celebrates its bicentenary in 1988 and Messrs Pilger and Lowery were saying in good time that in their treatment of the Aborigines, Australians had much to be ashamed about, not least the conspiracy of silence with which this part of their history has been surrounded.

Generations of Australians, said Mr Pilger, had indulged in a massacre as systematic as that of the Jews. The Aborigine had been regarded as sub-human, defined in an early encyclopedia as "an animal of prey". In fact the Aborigines were the prey and, as late as the Twenties, the shooting of 50 of them was

officially pronounced justified.

In 1967, 90 per cent of Australians, the largest majority in any political poll, declared for justice for the black man. Though the population is now rising, and Aborigines have gained some rights and white support, Mr Pilger produced much evidence that progress was not as fast, or going as far, as it should.

The lands they had been given were deserts or wetlands and even there they were threatened by mining corporations and, in some cases, American defence installations. Mr Pilger was doubtful about the intentions of the present Prime Minister, Mr Bob Hawke. At the 150th anniversary celebration, Aborigines were forced to re-enact the scenes that greeted Captain Arthur Phillip when he arrived with the first British fleet. It seems they cannot be forced into playing the role of "menacing savages" next time, which is perhaps some indication of progress.

Dennis Hackett

Pop music

Ashford & Simpson
Hammersmith Odeon

Since the songs they wrote in the 1960s for Marvin Gaye and Tammi Terrell put a patent on the genre, it was not surprising that when they turned to performing, Nicholas Ashford and Valerie Simpson should become the most convincing claimants to the title "sweethearts of soul".

Partners both in the music room and in life for more than 20 years, they have progressed - if that is the word - from the spontaneous energy of the Motown factory to the calculated emotions of the designer cocktail bar. Like everybody, they have learnt that emotional renunciation pays only a small dividend in the Eighties: whereas once they carved the subtle affecting lyric of "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" - was movingly dedicated to Gaye's memory, with the audience's noisy approval.

It seemed a shame, though, that they did not see fit to mention Miss Terrell, whose life was also prematurely terminated.

Richard Williams

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□ Members' support in 1984 was a vote of confidence in the future of the Halifax.

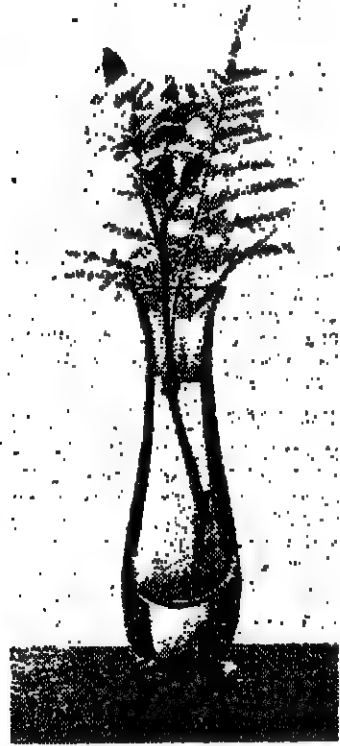
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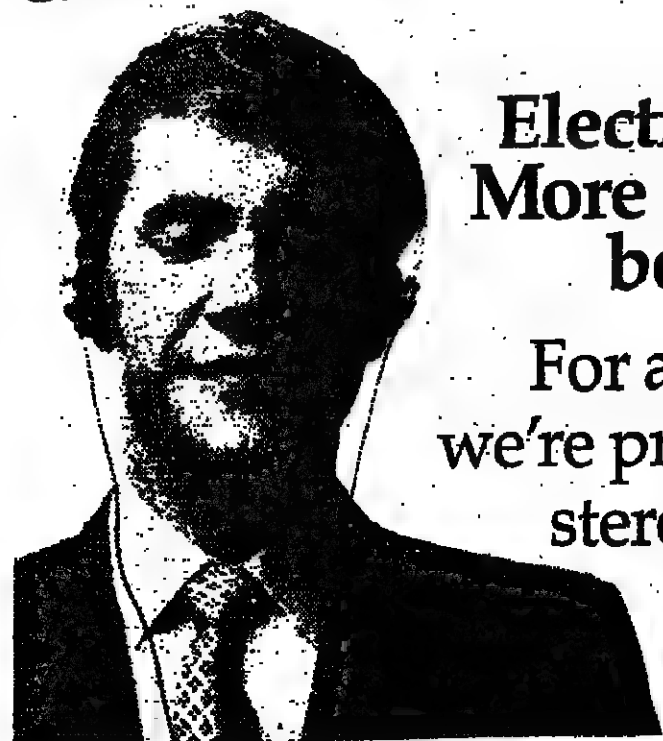
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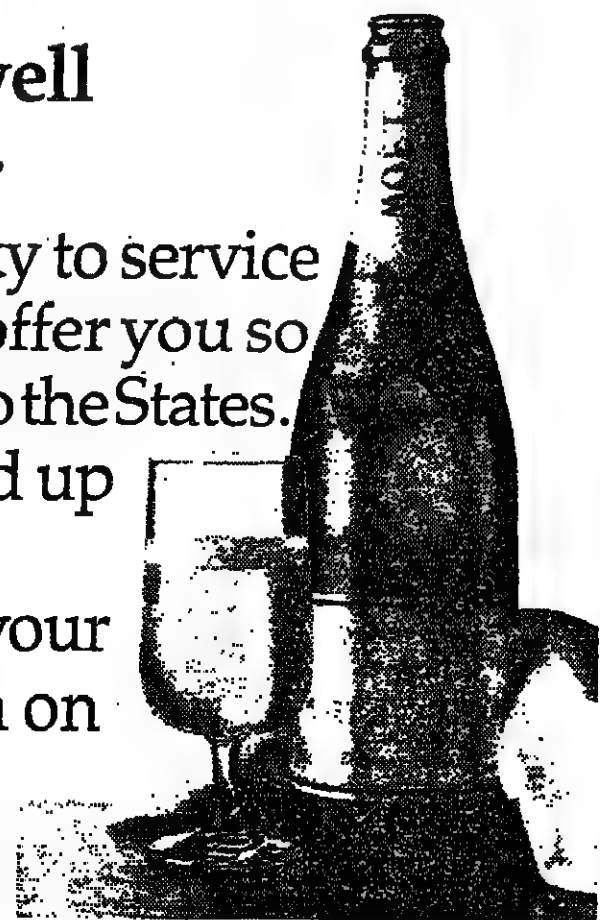
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SPECTRUM

The second of two articles examining plans to change a 109-year-old law

Animal rights: the painful decisions

Activists fighting to curb live laboratory experiments are bitterly divided

on the crucial issue of 'acceptable' pain.

Yvonne Roberts looks at the background and tactics of the anti-vivisectionists in the light of proposed legislation

Above a garage in north London, the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection (BUAV) operates from a warren of rooms. "Warren" is particularly appropriate as one section of office space is occupied by several rabbits. The rabbits, the dogs and the advertisements for safe homes for pets rescued from "animal abusers" are the only signs that this is an animal rights organization.

Normally, the level of activity is high: monitoring scientific and medical journals, organizing demonstrations, producing publicity material and the BUAV's newspaper. Recently, however, the organization has suffered casualties in a civil war which has split the animal rights movement into three camps.

Animal rights campaigners have always had their battles, but this war is different because it may give the Government some unexpected allies from within the movement. The cause of the friction is the issue of pain inflicted during experiments: or rather, whether it is possible to measure the degree of pain an animal suffers.

The Government says it is. In a White Paper published last week, *Scientific Procedures in Living Animals*, it outlined proposed legislation to govern the use of animals in experiments (see box). The proposals are crucial to the animal rights movement because they represent the first change in legislation for over 100 years. How the public reacts when the proposals become law (possibly next year) will have a major influence on the power base that the movement can command in future.

The basic premise of the proposals is that any pain an animal experiences must be related to the value of the experiment. David Mellor, the minister at the Home Office responsible for the control of animal experiments, believes the public feels some animal experiments are necessary.

He told a meeting of the Royal Society of Medicine recently. "Most people do not want animal experiments to be stopped. They want the purpose of the work to be rigorously scrutinized and the pain or suffering to be kept to a minimum."

In 1983, part of the animal rights movement signalled its agreement with David Mellor. The Campaign for Reform in Animal Experiments (CRAE), the Fund for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments (FRAME) and the British Veterinary Association submitted joint proposals to the Home Office. Among the measures, they suggested a cost-benefit scheme on pain; that is, pain related to purpose.

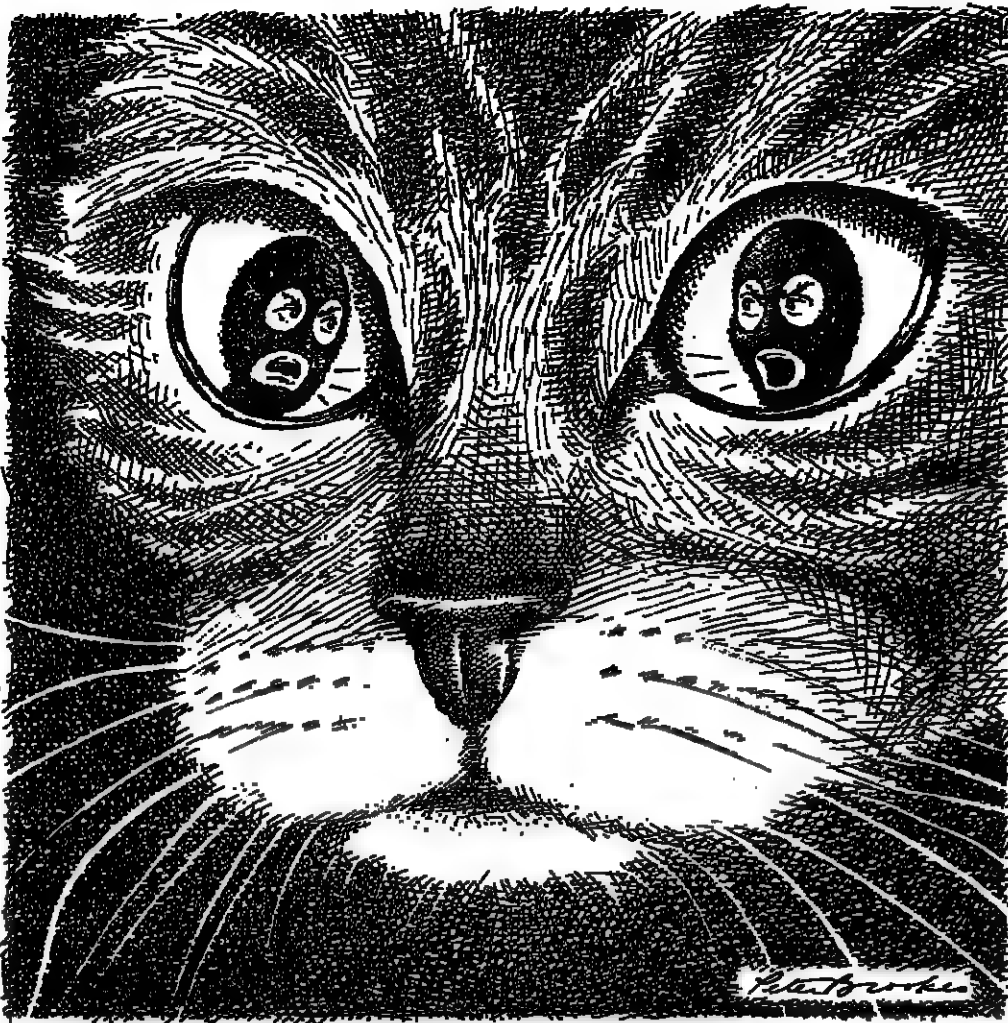
Shortly after this move by the moderates, a counter alliance was formed within the movement called Mobilization made up of anti-vivisection organizations such as the BUAV, Animal Aid and the National Anti-Vivisection Society.

Mobilization rejected a pain clause and set out a list of experiments which should be prohibited. It demanded the end of the Draize test in which liquid is dropped into an animal's eyes for up to 14 days to measure irritation; a ban on the LD50 test which supplies the dose of any substance needed to kill 50 per cent of a group of animals; the outlawing of tests for cosmetics, tobacco and alcohol, and no further behavioural, psychological or war-based experiments. (None of these is included in the Government proposals.)

Since then, a split has developed within the BUAV - who are against all animal experiments - because some members felt that Mobilization's proposals did not go far enough on the question of pain. Mobilization does not, for example, tackle the infliction of pain in medical experiments. The RSPCA's official policy is to demand an end to all experiments where any pain is caused.

The RSPCA and Mobilization do share the view, however, that it is impossible to measure pain, and they use Government sources to argue their case. The Littlewood Committee set up in 1965 to examine the workings of the 1876 Cruelty to Animals Act reported that "it is not as a rule possible to assess degrees of real pain in animals". In 1982, Dr J. D. Rankin, former chief inspector at the Home Office, told a symposium: "There is no way in which we can measure severity. It is and can only be a subjective assessment..."

Activists are concerned that even if the pain clause is



FUNDING	
Animal Aid Income	£200,000
Expenditure	£180,000
Membership	£25,000
Donations	£25,000
National raffle	£25,000
Compassion in World Farming	
Income	£105,986
Expenditure	£97,197
Subs & donations	£84,790
Legacies	£4,168
British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection	
Income	£450,000
Expenditure	£403,358
Subscriptions	£38,477
Donations	£45,935
Legacies	£236,998
Investment income	£30,821
Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals	
Income	£5,498m
Expenditure	£2,857m
Subscriptions	£20,000
Donations	£138,000
Legacies	£8,463m
Investment income	£1,54m

PRESENT REGULATIONS

The present system is regulated by the 1876 Cruelty to Animals Act, intended to cover less than 300 surgical experiments a year when it was passed. In 1983, there were 3.6 million experiments on animals. Licences for experiments can be obtained by anyone the Home Secretary may think qualified. Licensed experiments must be conducted on registered premises visited by one of 16 Home Office inspectors. A range of certificates allows a vivisectionist to work under different conditions. Certificate A, for example, allows an experiment without anaesthesia. Some 80 to 90 per cent are performed under Certificate A.

Guidelines are given on the maximum amount of pain an animal is supposed to experience. If an animal at any time during an experiment suffers pain which is "either severe or is likely to endure and if the main result of the experiment has been attained the animal shall forthwith be painlessly killed".

An animal must also be killed if during an experiment it suffers pain which is "likely to endure".

An inspector may also direct that an animal should be destroyed if he thinks it is suffering considerable pain. The Home Secretary is advised by the Advisory Committee on Animal Experiments.

Performing an experiment without a licence: a prosecution may only take place with the Home Secretary's consent. It is heard in the magistrates' court and the penalty is up to six months in prison and/or a fine of up to £2,000.

PROPOSED REGULATIONS

A person wishing to experiment on animals must obtain two licences: a personal licence issued after the experiment's purpose and design have been considered. The degree of pain the animal is expected to experience will be measured against the value of the experiment. A licensee will also have to vouch that no alternatives to animals would serve equally well for the experiment.

Permitted levels of pain will be set in advance for each project. Inspectors will issue the licences and if a decision proves difficult to make, the inspector may pass the experiment details to the newly constituted statutory animal procedures committee which will advise the minister at the Home Office.

All animals used in research must come from breeding or supplying establishments. The use of stray dogs and cats will be prohibited.

Special authority will be needed for the use of cats, dogs, horses and non-human primates.

A system of appeal to independent advisers will be established for those who wish to take further action if a licence is refused.

Penalties for breaking the law will be increased. A case will be referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions and can be tried at Crown or magistrates' courts. The penalty will be up to two years in prison and/or an unlimited fine.

Courting trouble

Ronald Lee and Clifford Goodman were both sentenced to three years' imprisonment at Oxford Crown Court on March 24, 1975. They had been convicted of causing £50,000-worth of damage to laboratories. "I ask for justice for all animals", Ronald Lee, a former trainee solicitor, said. The militant wing of the animal rights movement had, it believed, its first political prisoners.

Direct action has proved increasingly useful for the movement. Activists say that any distaste the public might feel when a law is broken is overcome by the horror of the revelations. However, direct action has become increasingly violent, and criminal, mainly due to the activities of the Animal Liberation Front. As a result, between 200 and 300 prosecutions of animal rights protesters have taken place in the past five years. Charges range from disturbing the peace to malicious damage. The pace of prosecutions is on the increase and police across the country now channel information on the ALF through a special group at Scotland Yard. Individuals from other animal rights groups are also appearing in court more frequently. More than 120 activists are now awaiting trial. Penalties are expected to be more severe than

the usual run of fines, suspended sentences or very light prison terms. "We've moved from being an irritation to a serious threat", says Ronald Lee, "and that change is bound to be reflected in the courts. It's a change we welcome because it means our actions are having an impact".

The issue of violent (as opposed to non-violent) direct action has divided the movement as much as the question of the pain clause. In an unpublished letter to *The Times*, following the "poisoned" Mias bars scare, 14 animal rights organizations, including the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Vivisection, recently dissociated themselves from such action.

The ALF was established in 1976 by some 30 veterans of the Hunt Saboteurs, including Ronald Lee. Present numbers are difficult to assess because every "cell" is autonomous and frequently acts under cover. Lee, however, puts the membership at about 1,000 activists and 2,000 supporters. 60 per cent of both groups being women, and the majority in their twenties. From one action a night in 1983, the ALF now claims five or more, from petrol bombing meat trucks and daubing to smashing windows and large scale arson.

But according to Lee, "ALF members are ordinary, law abiding people usually. They think carefully before they break the law. They feel it's the only way to get change."

Some areas of the country have suffered more than others from their attentions. In Bournemouth 300 butchers, furriers, fish and chip shop owners and hamburger bar proprietors have formed a vigilante group in response to the numerous attacks by the activists: smashing windows, daubing property, paint-stripping cars and glueing locks. "I've never seen anything like it", says Joe Young, a butcher for 25 years whose property has been attacked five times.

The ultimate aim of the ALF, according to Lee, is liberation for all animals and a land of human fructarians. The details of this utopia have yet to be worked out, but in the interim, the fear inside and outside the animal rights movement is that the increasing momentum of violence may build to a point where it is impossible to stop.

FINDINGS

A series reporting on research: PUBLIC OPINION

Cool news on the run

About one in six professional or executive men in Europe jog, according to a study by Research Services Limited, reports Gillian Hall in the current issue of *Admap*, the advertising and marketing magazine; twice as many smoke cigarettes.



In a correlation matrix, there are three clear clusters of countries, with Spanish and Italian men the most likely to jog (61 per cent and 50 per cent) and least likely to jog (8 per cent and 9 per cent). At the other cluster are the Scandinavians; more Swedish and Norwegian men jog (38 per cent and 36 per cent) than smoke (30 per cent and 29 per cent). In Britain joggers (23 per cent), outnumber smokers (16 per cent). Ms Hall concludes: "If it's cold, you run!"

Wielding the shield

Space-based defence systems, even the exploratory research favoured by Mrs Thatcher, are opposed by the majority of Americans, according to a poll taken in January for the Los Angeles Times.

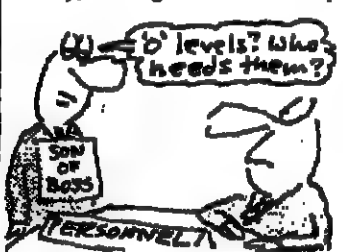
Respondents agreed by a ratio of two to one that such a system, designed to shield the United States from nuclear missiles, might be seen as threatening by the Soviet Union and upset the nuclear balance of power.

Two-thirds of Americans say also that they believe the Soviet Union cannot be trusted to keep an arms control agreement. Nonetheless over 80 per cent favoured an agreement calling for both sides to reduce their stockpiles of nuclear arms and almost as many favour an agreement to freeze nuclear weapons at current levels.

Who knows whom?

They say nepotism, is all right as long as you keep it in the family. Three-quarters of the British public feel that it is true that "many people get jobs because of whom they know, not what they know", according to Gallup.

But the reality, believes the opinion: only just over one in three members of the public say they obtained a job for themselves, or a member of their family, through someone they



know. The attitudes were much the same among both sexes, across all age groups and classes, and supporters of the major political parties. On balance, the British think the process happens more often now than it did 20 years ago.

Poll of Poles

Nearly 90 per cent of the Polish population have religious beliefs, according to an article in the latest issue of the Polish Communist Party socio-political journal *Nowe Drogi* (New Roads).

The survey is the latest in a long history of opinion polling in Poland. Indeed, the Poles have the longest-running longitudinal survey in the world.

The panel in question is of one Polish community where the study itself has outlived its respondents, and second and even third generations are being interviewed, giving a unique insight into how attitudes have changed over a 50-year timespan in their community.

Robert M. Worcester

The author is chairman of MORI. Details of fieldwork dates and sample sizes are reported in British Public Opinion Newsletter, published by the firm.



Methodius: Rallying point

Faith lights a fuse in Czechoslovakia

If you look up Saint Methodius in an encyclopedia, you will find that he was a scholar who, with his brother Cyril spread the Slavic liturgy and forged links between the Czechs and Slovaks. To the Roman Catholic Church, however, Methodius is an evangelizer, a holy pioneer who brought Christianity to pagan lands.

Now, 1,100 years after his death, in the political wasteland that is post-1968 Czechoslovakia, Methodius has become a menace. The Catholic Church is enjoying a re-awakening in Czechoslovakia and Methodius has become a rallying point for a conflict with the Soviet bloc's most militantly anti-clerical regime.

Last week in the Moravian village of Velehrad - where Methodius died - 1,000 priests, some of them wearing the vestments of banned orders,

and another 8,000 believers gathered in and outside the village church to hear Cardinal Frantisek Tomasek, the Czech primate, read a letter from the Pope.

Methodius, said the Primate; would have urged priests to steer clear of politics. The message was understood - priests were to have no truck with a pro-regime Catholic grouping called *Pacem in Terris*, which was specifically designed to split the Church. The 11-page letter from the Pope urged the priests, in the spirit of Methodius, to "continue tirelessly on the path of evangelization and testimony even if the situation at this moment of history makes it arduous, difficult and even often bitter".

The scene was reminiscent of Poland and that is precisely the problem. The Czech leadership, which remains fundamentally

the one installed by Leonid Brezhnev in 1968, is frightened of cross-border religious infection. There are an estimated 10 million Catholic believers out of a population of 15 million, the highest concentration being in Slovakia. The combination of strong faith coupled with a sense of national autonomy, resentment at being governed from Prague, and a diet of western television with its documentaries and news from Poland, have created a slow-burning fuse for the Husak leadership. Worse: the religious revival has spread to traditionally atheistic communities in the Czech lands, in Bohemia and Moravia.

As a result the leadership of Gustav Husak - himself a Slovak - has tried to right some of the imbalance between the prosperous Czechs and the neglected Slovaks, by expanding political representation and by unrolling more investment to the eastern region. Slovaks now occupy key positions in key ministries apart from having their own Slovak ministries. But the principal instrument to preserve the status quo is a stifling of religious expression.

In an audience last week, Cardinal Tomasek set out the bare statistics. Of the 13 dioceses only three have been filled in the past 20 years because the government withholds approval for church nominees. Independent church orders have been banned. Female orders are permitted but can accept no new novitiates. A strict *numerus catus* operates in theology colleges so that there are only 3,175 priests to 8,436 parishes. The church is confined to its walls; limited to strictly priestly work.

The most effective tool of the secret police - which, as in Poland, plays an important part in the running of church-state relations - is the fact that all priests have to be approved and licensed by the authorities. The Church says that some 500

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 651)

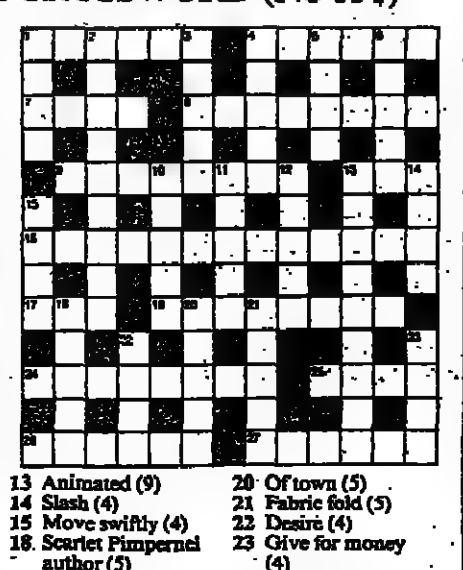
- ACROSS
- Made ready (6)
 - Self-esteem (6)
 - Money (4)
 - White man (8)
 - Drive (8)
 - Edible plant (3)
 - Tories (13)
 - Female deer (3)
 - White vestment (8)
 - Write hastily (8)
 - Frank (4)
 - Word link (6)
 - Throat lymph mass (6)

DOWN

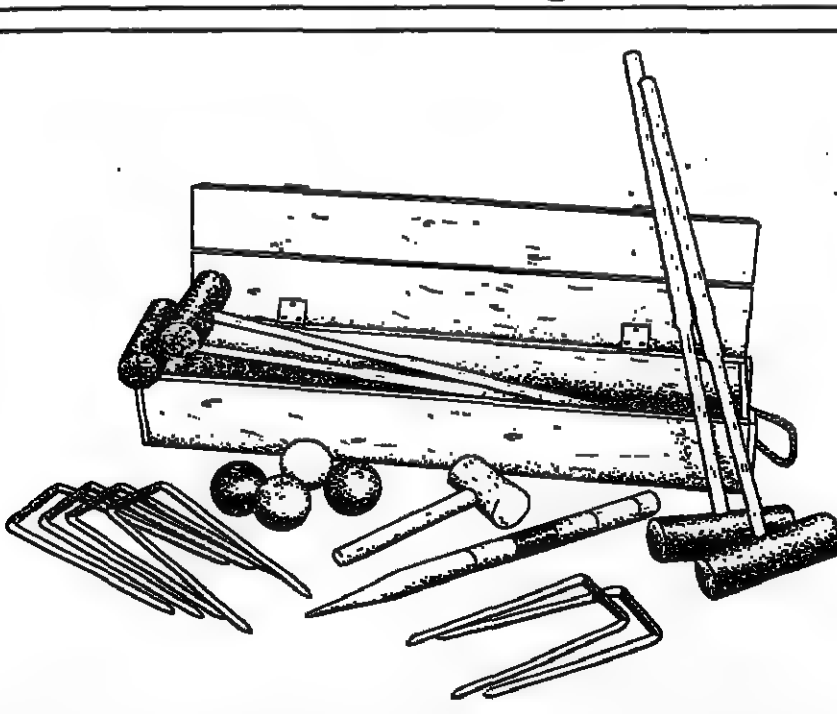
- Quick kiss (4)
- Impertinence (9)
- Warehouse (5)
- George Cross island (5)
- Floating platform (4)
- Wealth (5)
- News media (5)
- Lungs stream (5)
- Corolla part (5)

SOLUTION TO No 650

ACROSS: 1 Hobnob 5 With 8 Outer 9 Averred 11 Clambake 13 Rash 15 Neighbourhood 17 Risk 18 Anathema 21 Cherish 22 Padre 23 Stop 24 Peasary
DOWN: 2 Ostia 3 Nor 4 Black township 5 Wren 6 Tornado 7 Concentric 10 Dehydrated 12 Buhl 14 Trot 16 Inspect 19 Elder 20 Limp 22 Pin



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WEDNESDAY PAGE

How Michael Nicholson and his family drove home the long way - from Johannesburg to Surrey

Survivors of the sandstorm

'We must keep digging, the two boys said but we were sinking lower and lower ...'

Sue Pilkington meets the family who braved lions, tribesmen and all the elements on their 14,000-mile safari

When ITN decided to close their South African office, their reporter Michael Nicholson told his family: "We're leaving Johannesburg, and we're going to drive home."

There was little discussion, no dissent either from his wife, Diana, or two small boys, Tom and William. A couple of weeks later, they embarked in their Range Rover on a journey which was to take them almost six months and cover 14,000 miles across Africa to Egypt, then on to Greece and the Continent and finally back to England.

The story of their adventure is told in a book, *Across the Limpopo*. Sitting in the sprawling, 10-acre grounds of his five-bedroom Georgian farmhouse in Surrey, Nicholson insists that it was nothing out of the ordinary. Not even missing by a hair's breadth being slaughtered at the hands of 4,000 ex-guerrillas belonging to Joshua Nkomo's army on the road to Victoria Falls? Nor losing their loaded roof rack in the quagmires of Malawi's bushland? Nor finding themselves surrounded by lions when camping close to the Kenyan border? Well, all right, he admits, it was a worry at times, and neither he nor Diana actually enjoyed the trip. On hearing the news of the guerrillas on the BBC World Service he did experience "a dreadful cold feeling".

"I've seen what they do to people. There's no doubt in my mind that we would have been killed. But Diana and I decided to go on, even though we were about to leave what was still predominantly white Africa for Zambia. Any quitting had to be done then, but we both felt it would have been such a defeat to ditch the Range Rover and fly home."

For Nicholson, a well-seasoned

foreign correspondent with award-winning coverage of 14 wars under his belt, at the age of 48 the journey across Africa could be considered a busman's holiday. But what of his two small sons? Tom was nine, and William nearly eight when they set off. Family and friends were horrified at the prospect of serious illness, injuries or even death.

"They tried to make us feel irresponsible," says Nicholson. "Diana's parents wanted us to leave the boys with them. But we've always been a close family and shared risks. I remember climbing mountains in the Lakes with a six-month-old baby strapped to my back. Had one of them been maimed or killed we would probably have spent the rest of our lives regretting the decision."

'We didn't know what we had let ourselves in for'

Diana, busy unloading shopping from the Range Rover, has to be persuaded to join the conversation. She is convinced that it's boring to talk about what they did.

A slightly built woman, auburn hair scraped into a bun, face devoid of makeup, she is four years younger than her husband, shy and quietly spoken. Brought up in Leicester, the daughter of a pharmacist, she studied industrial textile design at Leicester University where she met and married Michael Nicholson. The son of a Lieutenant Colonel in the Royal Engineers, he spent the early part of his life in Germany where he



Home and dry: Michael Nicholson with his wife Diana and sons William (left) and Tom

remembers his parents were always travelling.

He describes Diana as cool and calm: "the only woman I could possibly have done this trip with." She acknowledges him as the extrovert. Both considered that doing the trip without the boys was out of the question.

"We didn't worry about them," she says. "They'd been out in South Africa for four years and we're used to camping. They're resilient boys and, somehow, we knew they were always doing the right things. But we simply didn't know what we were letting ourselves in for."

Both admit that their preparation was scant and inadequate. There were no pack lists and they were still buying the day before they left. "I thought you could buy things on the way, which was a bit naive of me," says Nicholson. "But then, I'd always travelled with a camera crew in style, right down to the freezer box of lagers." Diana was in charge of food, mostly powdered and dehydrated, with bananas, raisins and dates for lunch, but with gallons of sherry to last the trip.

Apart from malaria tablets, the Nicholson's medical kit consisted of little more than sticking plaster, slings, aspirin and a snake bite kit. It didn't matter. The box remained unopened.

The vehicle was, however, on Diana's insistence, well stocked with toys and books for the boys. "That was important. If you've got unhappy children the journey is ruined. And the boys had to sit for hours in extremely cramped conditions, one spread-eagled across the petrol cans in the narrow space between them and the roof, the other perched on the gear box. But they never once complained."

She was strict about homely routines like cleaning teeth, and having a cup of hot cocoa and a bedtime story before settling down for the night. And most mornings the boys were expected to do a couple of hours of schooling. Clothes were kept to the minimum and, when they could, they swam naked in rivers.

To the boys, it was one big adventure (though they never want to see another banana, raisin or date). Whether caught in a sandstorm, being

swept along in torrential rain, stuck in the swamps, or surrounded by hostile, jostling tribesmen, they kept every-body cheerful by singing.

The most terrifying moment of the whole trip for both the Nicholson's was after the sandstorm had subsided, and they found themselves in a lake of soft sand. Nicholson remembers the look he and Diana gave each other.

"We were sinking lower and lower, knowing that if there was another storm that was it. We'd all be buried alive. We had almost given up, but the two lads kept on saying, 'Come on, daddy, we must keep digging.'"

'The greatest moment was sailing into Portsmouth harbour'

Quite apart from the boys, an almost uncanny thread of luck runs through the book. Like the English vicar Diana spotted in the crowds at Khartoum, where there was no proper camping, "We'd heard dreadful stories about people being held at knife-point in their trailers," says Diana. "But the vicar emptied a garage of pews so that we could park, and then took us to the English Club where we spent a week, swimming and gorging ourselves on hamburgers, baked beans, chips and ketchup!"

The whole truth is stark: "It's like childbirth," she says. "You forget the horrors bits." But yes, they do have incredible memories: climbing 11,000 feet up Kilimanjaro, swimming in Mombasa, and riding donkeys up steep, mountainous paths to gaze down at the Valley of the Kings and the entrance to the tomb of Tutankhamun. "I think the boys will thank us one day."

But the greatest moment, they both agree, was sailing into Portsmouth harbour and seeing "pretty, pretty England" again. The Nicholson's moved into their farmhouse from Kew, two years ago. Having just returned from the Falklands, he finds that here he can completely relax. "It's a splendid house, though we don't live splendidly," he says.

Diana is busy redecorating from top to bottom, something they reckon will take five years. That, along with the cooking, cleaning and looking after the family, is something she clearly enjoys doing singlehandedly. They had six servants in South Africa, and fired them all, except for the gardener. Now, Diana gardens too. "I'm a slow decorator," she says, "but Michael doesn't seem to mind, and he pays me £250 a room."

Across the Limpopo by Michael Nicholson is published tomorrow by Robson Books, price £8.95.

Clues to keeping traffic on the move

TALKBACK

Please give credit where it's due

From Mr K. W. Huddart, GLC Chief Traffic Engineer, County Hall, London, SE1

One can agree wholeheartedly with the general feeling of Peter McHugh's article "Unsticking the traffic jam" (May 10) describing the work of the Transport and Road Research Laboratory. It is true that they have done an enormous amount of good work and that Dennis Robertson has done internationally acclaimed work on traffic signal plans.

But the article quite wrongly attributed other initiatives to the Transport and Road Research Laboratory. In particular, bus lanes were introduced quite independently of the Laboratory's various clues, including London's in 1968. By the time the Laboratory did some traffic experiments to confirm retrospectively analysis and design guides already established by the Greater London Council in 1973, bus lane programmes were already in full spate.

Wheel clamps also came from elsewhere, including experience in the United States and France. Their introduction in London was much more the result of painstaking persuasion by the GLC and others: it owed nothing to the Laboratory's technical support. Where the Laboratory gave invaluable support was in monitoring the experiment quite independently and showing how very successful wheel clamps were.

Finally, the GLC (not the Metropolitan Police as reported) is responsible for running the traffic control system as the highway authority responsible for most traffic signals throughout London. The police deal with day-to-day incidents: to help them to interact with the computer control we provide visual displays, keyboards and television. The control system includes the Laboratory's TRANSYT and SCOOT systems.

Permanent way to cut capital chao

From Mr Alan G. Challis, Bosham, West Sussex

"Unsticking the traffic jam" mentions that half the time spent travelling in towns is wasted by congestion. This probably underestimates the tremendous loss of time, money and effort occurring during the rush hours. Long-term planning of fast roads, particularly above selected sections of the railway networks in the inner cities, could have avoided much of the continuous loss and misery. Perhaps there is still time.

For example, in London there is a desperate need for a major South Cross Route to relieve Chiswick and Hammer-smith and to take much of the through traffic away from the congested A205 South Circular Road.

I suggest that a new road, the A205(M), should join the M4 at Brentford and run above the railway to Vauxhall, incorporating a spur to the North Circular

A406 at Gunnersbury Avenue. After passing through a tunnel under the Thames from the Chiswick allotments to the former goods yard at Barnes, it could run above the railway again to junctions at Wandsworth and Vauxhall. The next section would be to the Rotherhithe Tunnel and alternative routes are via Waterloo or on stilts via Albany Road. After serving the London Docks Development Area, it could run above the railway from Stepney East Station to the A11 and A102 near the marshalling yards at Stratford and then, if necessary, continue above the Central Line to the North Circular's junction with the M11.

Access in Heathrow and Stansted would be much improved. The cost of supplying the metropolis with its daily mountain of food and goods would be reduced and the whole economy would be more efficient. Our engineers are capable and could lead the world - but will our planners and politicians think far enough ahead?

Right road to smoother motoring

From Mr Terence Bendixson, London SW17

We all know the exasperation of waiting in traffic queues. Now you report that traffic congestion costs us all at least £1 million a year in lost time and wasted fuel.

The root of the problem is that the cost of motoring down Piccadilly in the rush hour is, for a driver, seemingly the same as it is to go tooling along a country lane in Kirkcubrightshire on a Sunday afternoon. This is absurd. It is like charging the same price for caviar and cod's roe. Somehow we need to rejig petrol and vehicle taxation so that drivers would have to pay three, five or 10 times as much to drive on a busy road as on an empty one, as is proposed in Hong Kong.

Imagine what would happen if this was done here. Some rush-hour commuters would give lifts to neighbours or colleagues at work and so share the increased costs of motoring at that time. Others would avoid such costs by driving to work much earlier. Meanwhile big employers would provide mini-buses for some of their staff while the ordinary buses, freed of congestion, would go faster, become more productive and cost less.

Allow better trains to take the strain

From Sally R. Hamwee, London SW14

Is it not symptomatic of our attitude to our overloaded roads that your article, with its details of the high national cost of hold-ups, contained no mention of improvement of the rail service as a means of unblocking the roads?

In Peter McHugh's traffic feature (May 10), the reference to the Scoot system being "built by Pye, Ferranti and GEC," should have read: "built by Plessey, Ferranti and GEC."

Toys, matches and sherry on the journey of a lifetime



The Nicholson's covered 14,000 miles from door to door in just under six months. The journey in Africa (see map) took them from South Africa to Zimbabwe, through Zambia, Malawi and Tanzania.

They travelled on into Kenya and Nairobi where they left their Range Rover for a complete overhaul and took a week's holiday in Mombasa.

Torrential rain nearly ended their journey. Their Range Rover is pictured (above) stuck in the mud on the "road" to Wei Wei in Northern Kenya. It took them 10 hours to cover four miles.

Good Friday, April 17 marked their arrival in Sudan and the most dangerous part of the journey - crossing the Eastern Sahara into Egypt. They sailed from Alexandria to Greece on June 11, thence to the Continent and home, reaching England in July.

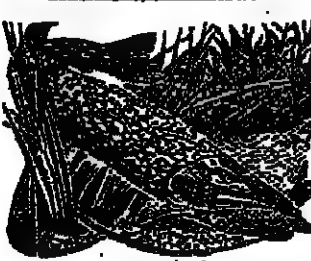
They took 150 gallons of petrol, tools, axes, wrench, spare parts, burglar alarm, compass, radio, maps, tents, six five-gallon plastic containers of water, powdered food, five gallons of sherry, a medical kit, four Gaz stoves, matches, cooking equipment, clothing, books, toys and sand tracks.



Soups to savour on a chill summer's day



Shona Crawford Poole



Salmon soup is a Swedish speciality. Cheaper farmed fish make it a practical possibility here, too, especially at this time of year when the herbs are at their best.

Salmon soup Serves 4
Salmon trimmings for stock - head, tail, bones, etc.

- 15g (½ oz) butter
- 1 onion, chopped
- 3 medium potatoes, diced
- 340g (12 oz) salmon, cut in cubes
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 bay leaf
- 120ml (4 fl oz) double cream
- 2 tablespoons each chopped dill, parsley and chives

Put the fish trimmings in a large pan with 1.75 litres (3 pints) of cold water and bring to the boil. Skim and simmer for about an hour. Strain and reserve the liquid. Discard the bones and bits.

Melt the butter in a large pan and add the onion. Cook gently until the onion is soft, but not browned. Add the potatoes and stock, and, after about 10 minutes, the fish and bay leaf, and salt and pepper. Simmer until the potatoes and fish are cooked, then stir in the cream. Bring back to the boil, adjust the seasoning and stir in the herbs. Serve immediately.

Good stock makes all the difference to summer soups intended to be served chilled. Home-made chicken stock that is full of flavour and sets to a fragile jelly is what gives these soups their body and makes other thickeners unnecessary.

- 100g (3½ oz) coriander leaves
- 1 large bunch fresh coriander
- 1 small bunch mint or parsley
- 225g (8 oz) spinach
- 1.75 litres (3 pints) good chicken stock
- 2 cloves garlic, peeled and sliced
- 2.5cm (1 inch) cube fresh ginger, sliced
- 1 tablespoon whole cumin seeds
- 6 whole cardamom pods
- 2 bay leaves
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- Juice of 1 fresh lime or lemon
- 150ml (¼ pint) mild, plain yogurt

Wash and chop the green-stuff, stalks and all, and put them in a large pan with the stock, garlic, ginger, cumin seeds, cardamom pods and bay leaves. Bring to the boil and simmer the soup for about 30 minutes.

Fish out the cardamom pods and bay leaves, then puree the soup by sieving or processing it. Season it well with salt and pepper before chilling it thoroughly. Stir in the lime or lemon juice just before serving with a spoonful of yogurt added to each bowl.

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When rain stops play and the zephyrs turn nippy, iced summer soups lose their appeal and something more substantial is called for. How about *soupe au pistou*, a classic summer soup of the south of France?

This is a true vegetable soup that does not resort to the stock-pot or cream jug for its richness. Instead it blends the sweet tastes of young vegetables with the robust fragrance of basil. When fresh basil is not available a small jar of Italian *pistou* sauce will suffice.

Soupe au pistou Serves 4 to 6

- 3 leeks, white part only, finely sliced
- 3 carrots, sliced
- 3 medium potatoes, diced
- 450g (1 lb) cooked white haricot beans, fresh, dried or tinned
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 3 courgettes, sliced
- 225g (8 oz) green beans, cut in short lengths
- 110g (4 oz) small macaroni

For the *pistou*
4 cloves garlic
A large handful of fresh basil leaves or a small jar of *pistou* sauce
55g (2 oz) freshly grated Parmesan cheese

Put the leeks, carrots, potatoes and white beans in a large pot with 2.75 litres (5 pints) of water and salt and pepper. Bring to the boil and simmer the vegetables, uncovered, for about 30 minutes, then add the courgettes, green beans and macaroni. Continue cooking the soup until all the vegetables and the pasta are cooked.

Meanwhile make the *pistou*. Using a pestle and mortar or a food processor, blend the garlic and basil leaves (or *pistou* sauce) to a smooth paste, then stir in the cheese, salt and pepper and gradually add the olive oil. This sauce is not intended to be an emulsion. It will separate when left standing. Stir again just before using.

Now there is a choice - to blend the *pistou* into the soup or serve it separately, allowing everyone to help themselves. Either way the soup should be very hot. To incorporate the *pistou*, put the sauce in a heated tureen and stir in a ladleful of the soup, mixing it well. Add the remaining soup gradually, stirring constantly.

Plenty of hot bread is essential with *soupe au pistou*. Extra grated cheese is optional.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Man bites watchdog

Tory MP Neil Hamilton was amazed to receive from one Lino Ferrari at the BBC a letter seeking ideas for a new programme called *Watchdog* which will be "reporting on behalf of individuals who may have been treated unfairly or insensitively by organizations (whether public or private)." Hamilton was delighted to oblige. He wrote back suggesting the first programme be on "the unfair and insensitive treatment meted out by slipped, reckless or mendacious BBC programme makers to various private individuals featured on programmes like *That's Life* and *Panorama*." Another could investigate how the BBC squanders "vast stores" of public money to "intimidate the impecunious private individual" knowing the latter can rarely afford to seek legal redress "in the face of insubordination by an organization the size of yours." What Ferrari had forgotten is that Hamilton is suing the BBC for libel over the *Panorama* programme which sought to link him with right-wing extremists. To Hamilton's letter, sent on May 3, he has conspicuously failed to reply.

Cross currents

For reasons only to be guessed at, a package sent from HMS *Conqueror* in Devonport to Tam Dalyell took 21 days to arrive. Anyone who may have opened it en route would have been disappointed: all it contained was a piece of the commemorative cake marking *Conqueror's* return to the flotilla after a two-year refit. It was sent to Dalyell on behalf of the crew by Lieutenant-Commander J. M. Burnell-Nugent, to enable him "to share our pride." In a letter of thanks, Dalyell blamed the delay on the "great curiosity of persons the 'unknown' and observed that "it is a relief to know that signals from submarines travel faster than cake."

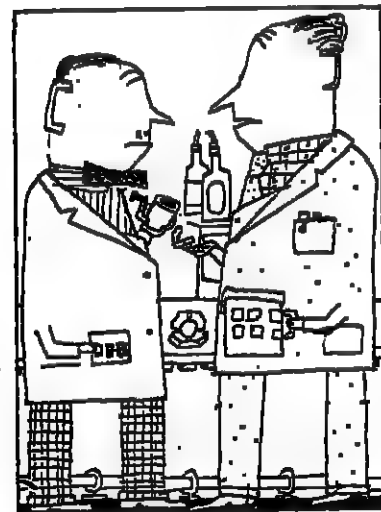
Hazard

Mr Justice Popplewell, the judge appointed to head the Bradford fire inquiry, may be in the government's good books. I doubt that his wife is. Until standing down as a councillor on May 2, Lady Popplewell was chairman of Buckinghamshire County Council's education committee and a leading advocate of Bucks' declaration of support - the first by a Tory council - for the teachers in their pay dispute.

Spoken in jest...

The results of the Commons Home Affairs Committee's investigation into the Special Branch have finally been published - some 10 weeks after I first disclosed the contents of its draft report and caused a parliamentary uproar. Introducing the results at yesterday's press briefing, Sir Edward Gardner, the committee chairman, remarked: "There have been so many leaks we almost suspected there had been a burst pipe." Indeed there was. As he spoke, two buckets outside the briefing room at Westminster were collecting water dripping from the ceiling.

BARRY FANTONI



"Surely it's part of the British Sunday to complain that the shops aren't open"

Etiquette

Appropos my story about the Boodle's member who was told he could stay in a double room at the club with a lady who was not his wife, providing she was the wife of a member, a Saville's member goes one better. He recalls a note which went up on the noticeboard asking members bringing girl friends or mistresses to the club's candelier dinners on Friday evenings to make sure their companions were not the wives of other members "as this could cause offence."

Chain reaction

Sir George Young, junior environment minister, was stung by a remark in his Ealing constituency local paper by the local Liberal chairman, John Gower. It accused him of insensitivity because he is "fervid about in chauffeured limousines at taxpayers' expense." Sir George read the letter while sitting in a bus and penned a swift reply. He offered to pay Gower £100 every time he is spotted in a chauffeured limousine if Gower gives him £1 whenever a constituent spots him on a bike or public transport. Gower would be rash to take him on. Alone among ministers, I am told, Sir George has no ministerial car allocated to him and often cycles to work.

PHS

Keeping the dons disaffected

by Peter Scott

Almost a quarter of a century ago the Robbins report promoted and endorsed the postwar expansion of British higher education with a magisterial eloquence that can hardly be imagined today. Perhaps the report's easy confidence reflected the brittle optimism of the 1960s, but its intellectual authority and moral rhetoric had much deeper roots in a high Victorian tradition of educational improvement equally hard to recall today.

Yesterday's Green Paper, *The Development of Higher Education into the 1990s*, is a very different document but as resonant of our times as Robbins was of the 1960s. It has roots in no grand principled tradition; its authority is derived from the imperatives of managerial expediency, and its rhetoric is the threat of national economic failure, not renewed hope of national greatness.

Yet for all its shortcomings the Green Paper is the first comprehensive and authoritative account of government policy towards higher education since Robbins. Our present system of 46 universities, 29 polytechnics and more than 100 colleges is three times as large and many times more complex than that examined by Robbins. It is also more confused about its objectives and allegiances and feels itself beleaguered and alienated.

So the Green Paper's first task is to establish a new consensus about the place of higher education in that curious mixture of a post-industrial and de-industrialized society that is present-day Britain, as durable as the consensus established by Robbins in the "you've-never-had-it-so-

good" Britain of 20 years ago that thrillingly anticipated the white heat of the technological revolution.

Its job is to extinguish the nostalgic afterglow of the golden age of Robbins and to persuade higher education to come to terms with a new iron age. This helps to explain its strangely retrospective quality. It is much more about the recent past than about the future, the early 1980s rather than the 1990s proclaimed in its title.

Many critics will accordingly dismiss the Green Paper as yesterday's document. They will point out, correctly, that it contains nothing new, that it is simply a reiteration of rigid and myopic policies with which higher education has been made depressingly familiar. But they will miss much of its significance, which is to make legitimate the agenda that the Government has imposed on an unwilling higher education since 1979.

The items on that agenda are well known: constant cuts in public support and relentless pressure for Rayner-style efficiency; rationalization of departments (and institutions) and highly selective funding to protect excellence and make the rest of higher education cheaper; discrimination against social science and arts and complementary enthusiasm for technology, especially if prefaced by "information"; tough industry-style management instead of cosy professional collegiality; the centralization of planning power by

reducing the former independence of the University Grants Committee and creating a new quango, the National Advisory Body, to run the polytechnics and colleges. Not surprisingly these preoccupations are authoritatively endorsed in the Green Paper. This is the shape of the new higher education order. But will it succeed? The first obstacle is that there is nothing in the Green Paper to lift the rock-bottom morale in universities and colleges; nor to close the yawning gap between the academy and the state.

This is among the most alarming phenomena of our times. Forty years ago, in war and postwar reconstruction, universities and government enjoyed a close, creative relationship. Many of the better things in modern Britain grew out of that partnership.

Today large parts of higher education have moved into permanent opposition, even internal exile. Mrs Thatcher's rejection, at Oxford was not some fluke engineered by Balliol boohies. This alienation of organized intelligence from the present government, and perhaps more generally from a state with apparently philistine values, will have serious consequences for the sensible conduct of public affairs well into the next century.

The second obstacle is that the Green Paper is hardly a charter for administrative reform. Instead it is a timid and conservative document, envisaging no change in the shape of

higher education, which will continue to be divided into two arbitrary camps - the universities in their new role as decaying gentry and the polytechnics, obliged to play the politics of envy, it envisages no national board for higher education and complacently assumes that the Department of Education and Science, the UGC and the NAB can handle their new concentration of detailed power over higher education. New wine in old wine-skins?

But the third and most significant obstacle is that the Green Paper enshrines a cramped, and cramping, view of the potential of higher education in Britain in the 1990s. It has no sense of the degree to which higher education has been woven into the fabric of modern societies. Yet postwar expansion has embedded the prospect of a university or college education firmly in the expectations of the rising middle class, along with mortgage relief and the company car.

Most serious of all, the Green Paper conveys little sense of the power of knowledge, both as the product of research and the possession of skills, in advanced societies. It goes far wider than training enough computer scientists, or warning higher education to beware of an "anti-business snobbery". As one frustrated delegate to the council of the Association of University Teachers in Glasgow last week put it: "Today Sir Isaac Newton would be rewarded, not for discovering gravity, but for catching the apple."

The author is editor of *The Times Higher Education Supplement*.

Christopher Walker on the implications of the prisoner exchange



May 30, 1972: Lod airport after the machinegun and grenade attack which killed 25. Right, Kozo Okamoto, only surviving attacker, now released from life imprisonment.

Peace gesture or prelude to new terror?

General Command, would not compromise.

One reason for Jibril's stubbornness was to promote his own standing in the West Bank against that of the mainstream Fatah organization headed by Yasser Arafat, which had never extracted such generous concessions. When one of the Palestinians involved in the secret negotiations heard about Israel's climbdown and learned the identities of the men it was prepared to release, he remarked in genuine surprise: "If they could agree to this, then perhaps there could be peace."

To add to the humiliation which Jibril seemed determined to heap on the Israelis, he insisted on sending an open letter to all the men and the handful of women on the list for release: "We highly appreciate your heroic struggles, endure your long-standing patience, your sufferings and pains inside prison and would like to convey the tidings of your impending liberation and release."

Only when the Israeli newspapers appeared yesterday morning did the public learn how many murderers, spies and bombers were involved. Many, like Yoel Marcus, an

acerbic columnist for the Tel Aviv daily *Haaretz*, drew a sharp distinction between detainees such as those released earlier from the Ansar camp in southern Lebanon and "terrorists" tried and convicted by Israeli courts.

The release of 879 convicted terrorists - among them known murderers - is not only a "capitulation", as one security official put it during the inner cabinet session that gave unanimous approval to the agreement, Marcus wrote. "It is also a milestone, if not a turning point, in the nature of war relations between Israel and the terrorists." He said that Arabs embarking on future attacks inside Israel would be confident of eventual release, however gruesome the operation or the length of prison sentence imposed on them.

Inevitably the anger is fiercest among relatives of the victims of the many atrocities - stretching back to a bomb attack at Jerusalem's Hebrew University in 1968 - which the freed men had carried out. Many of the bereaved were also bitter that no one in authority had informed them of the impending release. For

many the first news came on BBC World Service.

The strength of the reaction among the relatives and among Jewish West Bank settlers - who have already drawn up an ominous and detailed list of the Palestinians returned to the area - suggests that Jewish extremists may soon attempt to inflict their own revenge, starting another dangerous spiral of Arab-Jew retaliation.

Typical was the reaction of Chaim Mark, a 59-year-old Jerusalem shopkeeper who survived the 1979 bombing in the Galilee resort of Tiberias in which two children were killed and his wife, Haya, maimed. He said of Ziad Abu Ain, the West Bank Palestinian who planted the bomb: "There are a lot of people around here who would kill him, and I am one of them. If I catch him, I will blow his head off."

Inevitably, the moral and political agonizing will extend to the members of the Jewish terrorist underground either already convicted or standing trial for vicious attacks on Arabs. "The gentiles get freedom and the Jews suffering," read one of the banners unfurled as a series of demonstrations, with plans for an indefinite hunger strike, in front of the Knesset.

Many people I spoke to yesterday cited the exchange as another unhappy by-product of the war in Lebanon, and some argued that it could have serious implications for the legal fabric of the state. One immediate result is likely to be an increasing clamour for the return of the death penalty, abolished in 1954 and resurrected only once - after the trial of Adolf Eichmann.

Peter Kellner

For mid-term read terminal

Tired and listless after the shire county elections? Did last week's Gallup Poll give you a fit? Fear not, dear Tory, relief is at hand. Just keep taking these little blue pills and you too can enjoy Doctor Maggie's patent mid-term remedy. In this your poll rating will pick up, and by the next general election your support will be back to normal.

That, at least, is the theory. Mrs Thatcher insists that nothing untoward is happening after all, the Conservatives did badly in the 1981 county elections - and went on to win the 1983 general election with a landslide majority. It is normal, she says, for governments to lose support in mid-term and to recover as the next election approaches.

Experience and common sense suggest, however, that the phenomenon of mid-term protest is neither simple nor inevitable - and neither is the subsequent recovery. Last Thursday's Gallup Poll in the *Daily Telegraph* recorded support for the Conservatives at 30.5 per cent - 13 points down on the 1983 general election. At the same point in the 1979 Parliament (23 months after the general election) the Conservatives stood at 30 per cent (15 points down). But if we go back to the same point in the 1974-79 and 1970-74 Parliaments, the story is different: 23 months after Labour's October 1974 victory, the party stood at 42.5 per cent - 2 points up on its general election figure - while 23 months into Edward Heath's administration, the Conservatives had lost only 3 points to stand at 43.5 per cent.

Labour's last government did suffer a sustained bout of unpopularity, but we have no need to resort to mid-term mythology to explain it. Labour's support remained near or above its October 1974 general election level until October 1976. It then fell sharply - just as the International Monetary Fund crisis engulfed James Callaghan and Denis Healey. One year later Labour's rating had recovered as the economy began to revive and unemployment stopped rising. For 17 months between September 1977 and January 1979, Labour's support remained above the vote it achieved at the subsequent general election.

Equally, the trajectory of Conservative support between 1979 and 1983 contains no great mystery. First, its decline began well before mid-term arrived. By the winter of 1979/80, with inflation approaching 20 per cent, the Tories were down about 8 points to 37 per cent. Support picked up briefly in the summer of 1980 as inflation abated - but fell again as unemployment climbed rapidly above two million.

The birth of the SDP, and its alliance with the Liberals, compounded the Tories' problems between March 1981 and April 1982.

Charles Lane

Mentioned in dispatches

From his office on the top floor of a glass and steel tower between Capitol Hill and the banks of the Potomac, the Great Mentioner surveys the nation, scanning the current crop of promising young politicians in search of possible presidential contenders in 1988 and, believe it or not, 1992.

Getting mentioned lends that elusive yet essential quality - credibility - to a fledgling campaign. It means press coverage and even early commitments from financial backers. Indeed, the contest to catch the eye of the Great Mentioner is, in many ways, the first primary of the 1988 campaign - and it's already under way.

Why are some people mentioned and others not? Washington's political consultants, columnists, and other insiders, gave some clues.

● **The Automatics:** Kennedys and incumbent vice-presidents are automatically mentioned. So is anyone who ran last time and lost without making himself appear ridiculous, for example Gary Hart. Governors of big states such as New York, California, Illinois and Texas almost always get mentioned, mainly because those states contain the country's largest media markets.

● **Grooming:** Wherever possible, the Great Mentioner prefers heroes. Astronauts and former athletes are natural. Otherwise, it's usually enough to be young and handsome. It means appearing at all the right parties, making solid, non-flamboyant speeches. It also helps to come from a famous political family. The Great Mentioner currently enthuses over Senators Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia and Al Gore of Tennessee. Still, he has been growing more tolerant of those who lack classic pedigrees, which is why Lee Iacocca, Jeanne Kirkpatrick, Elizabeth Dole are being mentioned.

● **Going against the grain.** The GM loves a politician to defy "conventional wisdom" by proposing policies that challenge his party's accepted canon, or by attacking one of its loyal constituencies. Bruce Babbitt of Arizona, who has taken on non-means-tested benefits and the unions, has done well in these departments. The Great Mentioner also favours politicians like Babbitt and Governor Chuck Robb of Virginia, both Democrats who were elected in states where the Republicans are traditionally dominant. He believes that this demonstrates a certain moderate ideology that gives a candidate national appeal. And ever since Jimmy Carter surprised him in 1976, the Great Mentioner has liked "outsiders".

● **The Importance of Timing:** The Great Mentioner admires politicians who arrange their careers so that they leave a lower office at precisely the moment that a higher one is opening up. Governor Bob Graham

the Conservatives hovered at around 30 per cent support - dipping briefly below that at the end of 1981 in the wake of the Alliance by-election victories in Croydon and Crosby. Then came the Falklands, the rest, as they say, is history.

Two lessons emerge from past "mid-term" government slumps. The first is that their timing varies from Parliament to Parliament, and have so far been explicable wholly by real events: economic crises, inflation and unemployment figures, and the Falklands war. There is no evidence that the onset of mid-term election has anything to do with it. People do not say to themselves "It's two years since the last general election, it's time I started telling pollsters that I support the opposition."

Second, there is a protest vote phenomenon, but this occurs mainly in by-elections. It is quite common for government support to fall about 10 points more in by-elections than in nationwide opinion polls. But this is not confined to the mid-term: it can happen at any time. In March 1980, when Mrs Thatcher's government was just 10 months old, Labour came within 200 votes of overturning a 10,000 Conservative majority in Southend East.

To complicate matters, when the Liberals or SDP win a by-election, there tends to be a short-lived echo in the opinion polls, with the publicity effects of their victories producing a brief surge of support. It happened in 1973 and 1981 - and again in March 1983 after Simon Hughes won Bermondsey for the Liberals. Something of the kind may well have happened this month in the wake of the Alliance's gains in the county elections.

Yet Mrs Thatcher's problem is that her popularity, and her party's, have been steadily falling for some months, at a time when there have been no by-elections and the Alliance has received relatively little publicity. I do not believe mid-term blues have played any part. It is the remorseless rise of unemployment - the succession of cabinet ministers - from student grants to pensions - and the receding prospect of Thatcherism working that have undermined Conservative support.

At the next election approaches, so the mid-term theory holds, voters will think more seriously about who should govern Britain, and flock back to the Tories. The logic of that proposition escapes me. Presumably many people will ask themselves whether they really do want a further five years of Thatcherism. What I fail to understand is this: if unemployment has not fallen substantially by then, why should more than a die-hard minority reply "yes"?

The author is political editor of the *New Statesman*.

How the West could save Sri Lanka

Colombo

As you drive along the road to Batticaloa, the major town on the east coast of Sri Lanka, a little Tamil village by the roadside gape with blackened walls and skeletal roofs. Every house bears the marks of intercommunal hatred.

In the north of the country, in Jaffna and the fishing village of Velvettilai, houses and shops have been destroyed by military vengeance. A Buddhist pagoda lies broken open in the centre of Jaffna, the victim of Tamil revenge. In the northernmost village of all, Point Pedro, the police station walls are cracked and broken, the roofs collapsed, testimony to the violence of the Tamil terrorists.

The archaeological sites of Polonnaruwa, the holy city of Anuradhapura and the remains of the palace built by a paranoid parricide in the fastness of Sigiriya, once earned Sri Lanka the title the land of ruins. It seems likely to earn the title again.

In a makeshift mortuary at Anuradhapura last week the reek of death was overwhelming. Flies swarmed around the unclaimed bodies of innocent Sinhalese civilians caught at a bus stand or in a place of pilgrimage and shot by left-wing Tamil terrorists. The bodies included three saffron-clothed Buddhist nuns and a child.

At the weekend the citizens' committee in Kalumunai, in the east, reported that 59 young Tamils had been arrested by security forces, killed and buried in shallow graves. I have personally heard evidence of

other massacres by Sri Lankan armed forces, some of them admitted by the government.

The truth is that all sides in the fearsome ethnic conflict have become brutalized by it. If it goes on Sri Lankan society can only fall deeper and deeper in blood.

Without such strife this would be a very fortunate land. It is warm and fertile, rich in gems. Its people are dextrous and clever.

President J. R. Jayawardene has said on many occasions that the conflict is an internal affair and interference will not be tolerated. It may have ceased to be a simple matter of internal policy, however, and friends of Sri Lanka have begun to ask whether something can be done to call a halt to the killings.

Already there are 100,000 Tamil refugees in India - nearly four per cent of the total Tamil population of the island. The Tamil middle-class are sending their young to Britain - 2,000 since the violence of July 1983, and the flow is increasing. Another 66 arrived at the weekend with nowhere to go and are being held in remand and detention centres.

There is a danger that these immigration problems will have further implications, and a possibility of the conflict being exported as Tamil and Sinhalese exiles quarrel abroad. It happened, for example, in Paris at the time of the 1983 riots. It could happen in London, Melbourne or Sydney, where there are large Sri Lankan communities.

The conflict has further international implications since the western powers, particularly the US, would be unhappy to see a left-wing dictatorship set up in even part of the island. India would be unhappy about any kind of great power presence in what it regards as its zone of interest.

The beleaguered Tamils look to India to intervene. Tamil political leaders frequently draw a parallel between the situation in East Pakistan before the birth of Bangladesh and that in the north of Sri Lanka now.

India, particularly at present as chairman of the non-aligned movement, must be committed to the principle of non-interference. But last year it helped to bring the Tamil politicians to the negotiating table and to establish a suggested agenda.

The political situation in the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu will not allow the Indian authorities to suppress the Tamil guerrillas operating from there. But Rajiv Gandhi could restrict their operations, and also those of Sri Lankan political exiles if a settlement was in sight.

At present it seems unlikely that India can bring much pressure on Colombo, but Jayawardene and his government could lean heavily on western support and approval. Jayawardene has many friends in the West who admire the way he has handled the country's economy and militant trade unionism.

Britain should help because the seeds of the crisis were sown in the

unitary constitution at independence which did not contain adequate safeguards for the Tamils. The US should also perhaps be involved, along with Canada and Australia.

If these countries could agree on a programme with India that would satisfy Tamil aspirations, while not destroying the Sinhalese view of their country, it would be a step worth taking.

The programme could be close to the result of the all-party talks which ended in stalemate last December, with a proposal for a large measure of autonomy for each of the country's provinces. The gap between the two parties then seemed very small.

The danger here is that the outside interference would cause so much resentment that the proposals became wholly unacceptable. Again, India's influence might be beneficial, for Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike the former prime minister, and her son Anura, the present Opposition leader in Parliament, see themselves as allies of India.

Without some political solution the conflict will get worse. Already some Buddhist leaders are seeking a tougher attitude towards the Tamils and there are rumours of a possible unilateral declaration of independence by northern extremists, to be followed by a full-scale joint military operation by the guerrilla organizations. Time is running short.

Michael Hamlyn



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SEND FOR MR TEBBIT

At the Conservative Women's Conference which opens in London today, it falls to Mrs G. Baldwin of Chester to move the motion that the Government should "publicise its policies with more vigour to ensure that we win the next election"; and it falls on Lord Whitelaw to reply. The Conservative Women's Conference is rarely a very dramatic event. Lord Whitelaw is undoubtedly the best man to pour oil on whatever troubled waters slosh about in the Barbican Conference Centre. But it is hardly inspiring to find that in the sixth year of Mrs Thatcher's government, Lord Whitelaw has to be its chief spokesman against the discontents of the party rank and file. His defensive skills are famous; he is a formidable apologist for Mrs Thatcher. But his is not the voice which can give the party a clear sense of the job which still needs to be done if its hopes for an election victory are to be fulfilled.

The task of communication is one in which Mrs Thatcher's government has most conspicuously failed. Cautious pronouncements - pussy-footing attempts to judge what the country will or will not "stand" - lead inevitably to cautious action. The Prime Minister has never fully appreciated this fact of political life. She has been always sensitive to the charge of creating a Minister of Propaganda. She is indeed right to be sensitive when so many of her ministers do not actually believe the Thatcher policy which they

are obliged to communicate. In such cases, it may actually be propaganda. (Lord Whitelaw stands in a line of official Government spokesmen since 1979 which includes Mr Francis Pym.)

When Mr Cecil Parkinson took over the party Chairmanship from Lord Thorneycroft in 1981, the chairman's office in Smith Square became the place from which problems of communication could be solved. In recent months, there has been much talk of again using the chairmanship for the same purpose and replacing Mr John Gummer - who stands in the Whitelaw tradition of loyal defence - with Mr Norman Tebbit who has the inspirational qualities to take the party onto the attack.

This week, however, a rather different word has gone out: yes, but not yet; next year will do. But next year will not do. Delay is dangerous for two reasons. The first is that for all Mr Tebbit's personal difficulties in the long, tragic aftermath of the Brighton bomb, it appears increasingly to MPs and party officials that the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry is hedging his bets; his reluctance to take the party chair is attributed to the calculation that his chance of eventual succession to the leadership will be only slightly increased if the Conservatives win the next election with him at the helm and much reduced if they lose it. This is meant as no disrespect to

Mr Tebbit who is justly admired for his courage in appalling circumstances: it is simply the way politicians' minds work. Mrs Thatcher would be wise to scotch the rumour that Mr Tebbit may be a closet prophet of defeat; she has enough overt doom merchants already.

The second reason for acting now is still more important. The officers of the Conservative Party are no more generally sympathetic to Mrs Thatcher's aims than is the mass of the party's MPs. Mr Gummer is neither an inspirational nor a radical man by nature. Nor are the vice chairmen who have been appointed since he took office in 1983.

The next election has all the makings of a genuine contest. The walkover victory of 1983 has softened organisational sinews which were by no means tough at the outset. It will take more than a year to bring the campaigning arm of the Government up to battle condition. It is not just a matter of better presentation of policies. The task is to create the political confidence which alone will allow radical policy options to be taken. If Mrs Thatcher's Government is not a radical reforming Government, it is nothing and the voters will tell it so.

The Cabinet does not need a confusing reshuffle. In the fashionable phrase of the moment, it needs "a new face". The Conservative Party can give it one. The sooner Mr Tebbit takes the chair the better.

AN UNCLEAR SIGNAL

Three years ago Sir Keith Joseph bowed questions at the universities and other institutions of higher education intended to make them reflect on their future in a context of "resource constraint" - learning in a cold climate. The Robbins party was over; the chucker out had arrived in 1980-81 with a package of real cuts in university funding over three years, and he has remained at his post. The optimistic and expansionary assumptions of the Robbins decade had faded. Universities, in particular, polytechnics and colleges also, were being required to re-justify themselves.

The University Grants Committee and National Advisory Body for the other sector of higher education gathered opinions from their respective constituents and published replies last September. Before buckling down to questions of the unit of resource, tenure, transitory collaboration, qualified participation index and the rest of the stuff of academic bureaucracy, their reports were prefaced by a common chapter in which they proclaimed with some confidence the benefits institutions of higher education, learning and research confer on those who attend them and on society at large. These spokesmen for higher education took a high view of its utility and displayed a breadth of vision.

The Government's green paper in reply discloses no answering breadth of vision. It has to do with the nuts and bolts of the system, and even then it is not ready to pronounce on some of the most important of them -

the future scale and shape of student support, the distribution of students between the university and "public" sectors, reform of the University Grants Committee. The paper is hard-headed about cash, and admonitory about assaults on freedom of speech and other abuses in student unions. It promises neither the level funding up to the end of this decade, for which a good case has been made out, nor a longer time-scale for financial planning, which the Jarratt report on the efficient management of universities joined in advocating.

The paper looks forward to the temporary contraction of the student age-group after 1989 as an opportunity for retrenchment and closure rather than an opportunity for new provision of "continuing" education at intervals during the working life - something for which the need should be tested as the pace of change quickens in technology and social organization.

It puts salutary pressure on the system at several points. It encourages universities and colleges to seek income from entrepreneurial activity and closer links with the business world, while not pretending those sources will permit the government to withdraw to any large extent from its financial responsibility in this field. It fails to encourage a corresponding flexibility and innovation in the academic structure of individual institutions. It is also noticeably one-track.

The track is sign-posted in the green paper's opening statement. It is vital for our higher

education to contribute more effectively to the improvement of the performance of the economy. That is a most important consideration, but not to the exclusion of all other purposes these institutions serve and other public goods they promote. Neither the Robbins committee nor previous education ministers nor the UGC nor several generations of academic planners have been blind to the importance of that consideration. They have recognized, however, that you cannot press it far into policy without entering into central manpower forecasting on a time-scale that does not permit the forecasting to be done.

Sir Keith Joseph's department seems less aware of that limitation, especially in the facility with which it equates economically relevant with technological and vocational, and its evident desire to see courses of that description increase at the expense of the humanities which already occupy well under half first-degree university students. In an entrepreneurial economy the most highly educated manpower will most fittingly be equipped not just with vocational expertise but with transferable intellectual and personal skill of a general order. And not all economically productive employment, even these days, is grounded in science.

Even within its own terms Sir Keith's Paper can be criticized for treating its principal preoccupation too narrowly: it points the way to innovation and self-help without making its enthusiasm for that direction clear enough.

FOREIGN FOOTBALL DEVILS

Football violence has become such a regular occurrence in Britain that there will be a natural inclination to view the rioting in Peking on Sunday in familiar terms - over-zealous spectators fired by the sight of a national team going down to a relatively insignificant visiting side. The fact that large numbers were willing to risk the harsh penalties involved in disrupting Chinese law and order may be attributed to the heightened disappointment of the loss coming early in the qualifying stages of the World Cup, with its attendant blow to national pride.

But in a country that is authoritarian by nature and bent on rapid political and economic change, such manifestations of disobedience (by all accounts extraordinary in character) can be viewed in a broader context.

A critical stage in reforms has been reached; while considerable progress has been made in transforming the Chinese economy, the associated political reform has merely limped along. Main obstacles here have been

an entrenched Maoist element within the party and an obstinately radical military. An attempt to exorcise even the modest target of one per cent of "undesirable" party members in a rectification campaign met with failure. Despite this lack of success, or possibly because of it, the leadership has now turned its attention to the military, with a far more ambitious programme of reduction in mind. Should this fail, it will only serve to further antagonise a group already disaffected by a falling standard of living and loss of status.

Sunday's events may have been simply a side effect of the general rise in hooliganism, corruption and spiritual contamination associated with the economic reforms. Given the level of opposition remaining, this is in itself a source of worry for China's leaders particularly as they are hard pressed to find solutions for these problems. However, it could hardly have escaped the notice of Deng Xiaoping and his lieutenants

that the two major acts of disobedience had at their core the more pernicious elements of the Cultural Revolution: Red guards and a virulent strain of anti-foreign sentiment. Of these, the latter is a major cause of alarm. It is difficult to dissociate Deng's reforms from westernisation. Should there be a backlash against his policies, anti-foreign feeling will act as a most convenient vehicle for it.

In Hong Kong the riot will serve as a sombre reminder of the difficulties that accompany the traditional north-south rivalry in China. It is far from coincidental, in this respect, that Hong Kong witnessed a similar outbreak of violence after a Hong Kong/China international played there not long ago. The paramount fear, long held by many in Hong Kong, is how to weave successfully between cooperation and competition with their northern kin after 1997. At this stage, the indications are that the northerners are in no mood to entertain serious competition.

Indeed, the Government's recent legislation on limited list prescribing was, in part, influenced by evidence of this magnitude of saving by us which was independently checked by officials of the Department of Health and Social Security. My inquiries to the DHSS show that East Anglian doctors do not, as Dr Ferreira says, have lower prescribing costs than the rest of the NHS and furthermore do not

provide their services for an average of £16 per patient per year, which he maintains. The Ministry estimates that it is more like £24. Yours faithfully, MICHAEL J. GOLDSMITH, Executive Director, The Harrow Health Care Centre, 84-88 Pinner Road, Harrow, Middlesex, May 16.

Economic words, deeds and sums

From Mr J. W. Williams

Sir, In his letter to you of May 20, which you headed "Matching economic words to deeds", Mr Julian Amery has exercised a certain economy when dealing with the number of unemployed able-bodied men and women.

Subtracting from the 3,250,000 total registered unemployed the figure of 1,750,000 finding a new job within a year of losing their original job, he arrives at a remainder of 1,500,000 registered unemployed who have been out of a job, for more than one year.

Losing 250,000 men and women in the process of presenting the unemployment statistics is not unprecedented, especially by the supporters of the present Government, but is perhaps an example of why some MPs with more concern for the individuals involved are attempting to change the attitude of the Thatcher leadership.

One thing, however, Mr Amery makes very plain. What is happening is a "massive transfer of people" from one sort of job to another which is "certainly not voluntary". More than anything else it is a style of controlled freedom to quote from a recent leader of yours, which is causing more people to question the objectives of Thatcherism and to feel the stirrings of unease.

Yours sincerely, J. W. WILLIAMS, 15 Oakthorpe Road, Summertown, Oxford, May 20.

Bradford fire disaster

From Mr N. H. M. Anderson

Sir, I fully support Professor Smith's plea (May 17) for more research to cut fire costs. To date no national accounting for the extra costs represented by implementation of building regulations and local bye-laws relating to fire protection has been undertaken, although numerous estimates and guesses exist.

To such costs must be added the costs of maintaining our excellent public fire services, numerous industrial fire services, fire security guards as also the costs of installing and maintaining the wide range of fire detection, alarm, extinguishing and control equipment. Most will agree that the total is excessive, but without research into cost-effectiveness any reduction would probably bring greater vulnerability.

In part the Home Office Green Paper, *Future Fire Policy*, 1980, supported by the substantial *Review of Fire Policy* looked into this question of cost-effectiveness, but those studies tend more to show how little is known and how much further research is required.

There exists numerous bodies dealing in considerable detail with various aspects of this problem. What is needed is a national Fire Council drawing on existing knowledge and co-ordinating further research. What this must surely be the long-term solution to the avoidance of waste of national resources, an early formation of such a Fire Council would bring together those best able to ensure that nothing like the Bradford disaster is allowed to occur again.

Yours faithfully, N. H. M. ANDERSON, Anderson International Developments Ltd, 76 Hill Road, Wallington, Surrey, May 18.

40 years on

From Mr W. Robert Jondorf

Sir, It is Mr Gorbachov's view, as reported in *The Times* (May 9), that the aggression against Poland could only succeed because the West had colluded with Hitler.

Perhaps Mr Gorbachov found that his remarks were not rapturously applauded by Polish and East German delegates in his Kremlin audience; this would not be altogether surprising.

The signing of the Molotov-Ribbentrop 10-year non-aggression pact on August 24, 1939, was ratified by the Soviet Union on September 1, 1939, the very day on which Hitler's armies, fully equipped (but not by the Western allies), surged into Poland.

The Polish military response did not long survive the Red Army's rushing in to support the German invasion on September 17, 1939, an action which Mr Molotov explained as Russia's sacred duty (*The Times*, September 18, 1939).

Poland was partitioned between the Soviets and the Nazis. The claims of Western collusion in these events are absurd. Yours faithfully, W. ROBERT JONDORF, 3 Gough Way, Cambridge, May 9.

Weak link in Chunnel?

From Mrs Elizabeth Young

Sir, I wonder if potential promoters of a fixed Channel link between France and the United Kingdom, to whom the British and French Governments have recently issued an "invitation" to make proposals, are fully aware of certain heffalump traps in that invitation?

Promoters themselves will be required "to demonstrate that they have and will maintain adequate insurance cover"; they are also "reminded that certain international conventions limit the amount of damages payable by the owners of seagoing ships".

Inconsistencies in kerb-crawling Bill

From Mr Matthew Parris, MP for Derbyshire West (Conservative)

Sir, Your report (May 18) that I was "under pressure from ministers" to withdraw opposition to Miss Fookes's Bill, in fact, no pressure was exerted. The Bill seemed to me defective. Our curious procedure had presented Mr Marlow and me with the power to destroy, though not to amend; but how far was it right to hold the public hostage to a dispute about drafting?

That was the pressure one felt. Neighbourhoods where "kerb-crawling" occurs do need relief, and to send a Bill - any Bill - up to the Lords allows them to consider how the statute might better be framed.

I hope they succeed. This is probably the only reform of our prostitution laws that the Government will sponsor. Other reforms (many of them permissive) which the Criminal Law Revision Committee will recommend in their forthcoming report, will gather dust. The committee must have suspected this on being asked to recommend a "kerb-crawling" offence early and in isolation from the remainder of their report. In accepting they have surely not served their subject well.

The proposals showed evidence of dross to "do something". Miss Fookes has already withdrawn that section, aiming to create an offence of frightening women. We are left with two clauses which are inconsistent with each other (it will be possible, lawfully, to solicit a woman face to face, but not from a car) and

inconsistent with the existing laws on soliciting (which allow women to solicit men, unless known prostitutes, and men to solicit men, unless persistent). The minister outlined procedures which all but require the use of policewomen decoys if convictions are to be secured.

I hope that the Lords can find legislative expression for at least this: that a man should be shown to have made a nuisance of himself before he can be successfully charged. That, after all, is what the public object to.

Whether, through the importation of "persistence" into the offence or the requirement that the behaviour cause nuisance, or in some other way, their lordships must now judge; but it matters for two reasons: firstly, we must reduce the scope for mistaken accusation; secondly, we should respect that boundary between prevention of nuisance (which the public desire) and the enforcement of morals (where we are on unsure ground).

The minister relied throughout upon two assertions: that we should not make the job of the police harder; and that Parliament should "send out a clear signal" that misbehaviour was unacceptable. I find that an imperfect expression of the function of criminal statute and am proud to have been a nuisance - and "persistent" with it!

Yours faithfully, MATTHEW PARRIS, House of Commons, May 20.

Black and white issue

From Mr Bernard Black

Sir, You highlight the fact on your front page today (May 18) that the "black" Brent South constituency Labour Party has short-listed three blacks in their selection of a parliamentary candidate for the next election. The clear implication is that there will be a black Labour MP for Brent South by 1988.

The advent of a non-white MP into the House of Commons would certainly make it a more representative body at a stroke and should thus be welcome but success is by no means assured in Brent South.

The last election once again showed that non-white candidates fare worse than their party colleagues. None of the 18 non-white candidates was elected. In supposedly marginal West Hertfordshire, for instance, Paul Boateng lost 23.7 per cent of the Labour vote and finished in third place, nearly 15,000 votes behind the Conservative winner.

If Labour did that in Brent South at the next election, their vote would

plummet from 21,259 to 16,231 - less than the number who did not bother to vote in that constituency at the last election. Let alone the combined votes of the Conservatives and Alliance supporters, many of whom might vote tactically to stop Labour winning.

The truth is that there should be no such thing as a safe seat and tactical voting should be rendered redundant by giving the people the opportunity to elect several MPs - be they three for Brent or six for Sheffield - without increasing their total number.

In that way we could all vote for the MP we wanted and both blacks and a greater number of women would be a feature of a much more representative Parliament.

It is this, rather than a collection of centre forwards and outside lefts trying to find the net at the right end of the field, that the nation really requires. Yours faithfully, BERNARD BLACK, St John's College, Southsea, Hampshire, May 18.

Social workers

From Mr Chris Adamson

Sir, In his letter (May 9) Mr Bamford took the opportunity to criticise Camden's Director of Social Services for the decision to appoint unqualified social workers in order to achieve a quota of social workers from ethnic minorities.

The Camden Committee for Community Relations has strongly supported this policy for the reason that, far from lowering standards, it will, in our view, significantly increase them.

It is, firstly, quite clear that the holding of the relevant academic qualifications is no guarantee of competence as a social worker. Conversely, the lack of such qualifications does not prevent many individuals from acquiring, through life and work experience, the empathy, understanding and analytic ability which are the essential qualities for the competent social worker.

Thus, by widening the pool of potential applicants within both the black and white community, there is the likelihood of significantly improving the quality of those actually recruited.

Secondly, because of the way in which racial discrimination has operated to effectively block the employment of black people, there are few social workers at present in Camden who have either the understanding or experience to deal with issues affecting black and ethnic minority families.

The introduction of the policy will, it is hoped, increase the number of black and ethnic-minority social

workers, which should, in itself, inspire greater confidence from the community and enable the department to tackle more effectively the issues with which it is confronted in a multicultural society.

Yours faithfully, CHRIS ADAMSON, Community Relations Officer, Camden Committee for Community Relations, 58 Hampstead Road, NW1, May 17.

The voice of SDP

From Mr Andrew H. McLuskey

Sir, Neil Kinnock describes the SDP as a party without "policy, principle or purpose" (report, May 18). In fact the constitution of the SDP opens with a ringing declaration of purposes, "... to create and defend an open classless and more equal society which rejects prejudices based upon sex, race, colour or religion".

Unlike Mr Kinnock we are prepared to hold the difficult tension between liberty and equality which is the only sensible basis for a civilised society. We are committed to seeking a better deal for the less well off at home and abroad, but we are not prepared to low-tow in the process to trade union barons or the USSR.

Yours faithfully, ANDREW H. McLUSKEY, (Chairman, Reading West SDP), 124 The Medway, Tilchester, Reading, Berkshire, May 18.

Sikhs and 'The Times'

From the Editor of The Sikh Messenger

Sir, A report in *The Times* is almost unquestioningly accepted as the truth. This is a measure of both your reputation and responsibility. It is with regret, therefore, that we write to protest in the strongest possible terms about your reports on the recent bomb blasts in India (May 11 and 13).

Without any evidence whatsoever the Indian Government, through its State-controlled radio and television and a compliant press, placed

immediate blame for the bomb blasts on the Sikh community.

What, though, of *The Times*? Why should it resort to publishing dangerous smears which, in India, could lead to further atrocities against a visible 2 per cent minority and a heightening of hostility to Britain's half-million Sikhs? Should not a community, like an individual, have the right to be presumed innocent until found guilty?

Yours sincerely, I. SINGH, Editor, The Sikh Messenger, 43 Dorset Road, Merton Park, SW19.

United States, where this kind of liability limitation is not recognised.

The question arises whether the British and French Governments will require the Channel link promoters to take up "adequate insurance cover" to cover their customers' interests even when they themselves cannot fully claim against a shipowner. The "invitation" states unambiguously: "The promoters will be liable ... in accordance with the national laws applicable to that part of the link where the accident took place".

Has the time perhaps come, when this anachronistic *de facto* subsidy to shipowners should be phased out? It does after all, selectively benefit those shipowners who have the worst accidents.

Yours etc, ELIZABETH YOUNG, 100 Bayswater Road, W2, May 13.

ON THIS DAY

MAY 22 1901

In 1900 attacks on Chinese Christians and foreigners by armed bands of nationalists - the Boxers - led to the Western powers sending troops to protect their peoples. In retaliation the *Dunanger Express* T.V. - an armed all-foreigners to be killed, compelling them, with Chinese Christians, to take refuge in the legation quarter of Peking. The siege of the city lasted until August 14 1900 when it was relieved by an international force. Our Special Correspondent was (Sir) Valentine Churill (1852-1928) who was head of the foreign department 1899-1912. The extract from his dispatch is one of a series of long articles.

THE FAR EASTERN QUESTION.

VIII.* PEKING REVISITED.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT'S)

PEKING, MAY 19 1901.

The whole of the Legation quarter of Peking lies in the Hsiao Men Gate, a parallelogram roughly three-quarters of a mile long and half a mile deep, is a sea of mud, in the midst of which the main buildings of the Legation quarter have almost alone been left standing. The British Legation has, perhaps, suffered least of all, though the walls, and especially those of some of the outbuildings, still show the marks of the heavy fire to which they were exposed. The spectacle they present is only surpassed in interest by the Peking, the Roman Catholic Cathedral and mission on the other side of the Imperial City. The Legation quarter, with only a handful of French and Italian nuns to heaven them, and even the few Chinese Christians, European garrison, had to bear the brunt of a murderous attack sustained unrelentingly for the whole two months without even the semblance of a respite which the Legation enjoyed for a time after the capture of July (July 14) the Legation quarter, within the narrow lines of defence, has left a yawning crater in which a number of bodies are still believed to be lying buried, though over one hundred have already been dug out, and the fighting casualties from only a small proportion of the heavy mortality caused by famine and sickness, especially amongst the children of the orphanage. All over the city, east and west, south and north, one comes at intervals across black patches of mud, the wreckage left behind by the great wave of barbarism which swept over Peking during the early part of June, when the Boxers and Tung-fu-sung's hordes first took charge. Not only every foreign building, every dwelling inhabited by native Christians, but every shop in which foreign goods were sold, every house suspected of being warm in the Boxer cause was levelled with the ground, and during the whole two months of the siege, while the Legation quarter was under the protection of the Legation, the capital was swept under her own ruins. Not only lawlessness and chaos reigned with the arrival of the relieving force, but every shop in which foreign goods were sold, every house suspected of being warm in the Boxer cause was levelled with the ground, and during the whole two months of the siege, while the Legation quarter was under the protection of the Legation, the capital was swept under her own ruins.

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Gnarled oak, soft myrtle

From the Secretary of the Tree Council

Sir, May I express my gratitude to the many readers who have regaled me with a feast of Shakespeare quotations referring to trees. They range from prunes "He lives on mouldy stewed prunes", *Henry IV, Part II*, II.4.159) through numerous reminders of "apricocks" - by far the most widely spotted omission - to an interesting suggestion that Harry Percy's offer of his service to Bolingbroke likens his allegiance to the fruit of the service tree (*Richard II*, I.3.341).

My education and the comprehensiveness of the Shakespeare Tree Garden will both benefit greatly from all this erudition. Yours faithfully, PETER N. GEROSA, Secretary, The Tree Council, Agriculture House, Knightsbridge, SW1.

From Captain C. A. Douds, RN

Sir, Absent from the list appears to be Sir Herbert Beerboom.

Yours faithfully, CHARLES DOUDS, Jade Cottage, Wad, Court, Havant, Hampshire.

Doctors and advertising

From Mr Michael J. Goldsmith

Sir, A reference to this centre in Dr Ferreira's letter (May 13) is incorrect. The Harrow Health Care Centre is renowned, if for no other reasons, because it has managed to cut its own drug bill to the extent that this is now 25 per cent lower than the average drugs costs of National Health Service general practitioners.

Indeed, the Government's recent legislation on limited list prescribing was, in part, influenced by evidence of this magnitude of saving by us which was independently checked by officials of the Department of Health and Social Security. My inquiries to the DHSS show that East Anglian doctors do not, as Dr Ferreira says, have lower prescribing costs than the rest of the NHS and furthermore do not

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Bank appointment signals the speed of change

If proof were needed of the rapid pace of change in the City, it is provided by yesterday's appointment of Martin Jacobson as executive chairman of Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the new American-style securities group assembled by Barclays Bank.

It is unusual enough for Barclays to appoint an outsider - Mr Jacobson was until yesterday deputy chairman of Kleinwort Benson - to any senior position. Mr Jacobson will also have a seat on the Barclays Bank board as one of three deputy chairmen, an unprecedented elevation for someone not previously associated with the Barclays "families".

The appointment is a measure of the importance Barclays attaches to its new securities offshoot as well as recognition of Mr Jacobson's considerable talents and experience. Since Lord Camoys, chief executive of BZW, recognized last October that the job of merging four separate businesses - de Zoete & Bevan, Wedd Durlacher, Barclays Merchant Bank and BMB's fund management activities - as well as design a strategy for their future, was beyond the capabilities of one man, Mr Jacobson, 55, was the man to bring in. The realization coincided with Mr Jacobson's decision to turn down the invitation of heading the Securities and Investment Board.

Mr Jacobson's remuneration is being kept a secret though when Barclays' report and accounts eventually reveals all, his is likely to put the salaries of the other two deputy chairmen in the shade.

Mr Jacobson will be responsible for strategy and liaison with the clearing bank while Lord Camoys will be involved more with the day-to-day running of the operation. The precedents for top personnel shuffling from the entrepreneurial environment of merchant banking into the more restrained atmosphere of a clearing bank, are not encouraging. Sir Charles Ball, for example, quit his job as vice-chairman of Kleinwort Benson to head Barclays Merchant Bank, only to fall out horribly with his seniors in the late 1970s. It is exactly these cultural differences that Mr Jacobson and Lord Camoys must overcome if they are to make a go of the job.

Barclays itself it confident that it has an enormous contribution to make to the future of BZW while Mr Jacobson ventured the opinion yesterday that securities trading will become an increasingly important area for all the clearing banks, not just Barclays. Looking further into the future Mr Jacobson saw "an exciting opportunity" for BZW to utilize Barclays' huge retail network. On a more controversial note he said he agreed with a "great deal" of the recent hardhitting paper that BZW produced airing the many problems it forswore in the stock exchange's proposed structure for and regulation of securities trading.

There is genuine grief at Kleinwort, Benson. Chairman Michael Hawkes is not hiding the fact that Mr Jacobson is a considerable loss. But Kleinwort, Benson has taken the opportunity of his going to promote some of the younger men. Lord Limerick who was the other vice-chairman along with Martin Jacobson will now become deputy chairman (at 55 he is only slightly younger than Michael Hawkes).

The succession is therefore likely to fall on one of the three new vice-chairmen who are in their late forties or early fifties. One, Lord Rockley, is a corporate financier and has headed this department at Kleinwort, Benson since 1982. The other two are bankers: Robin Fox who has been mainly involved with the international side of the banking operation and David Peake who latterly has headed the export credit services and is also group personnel director.

Belgian lifeboat for Ansbacher

Thanks to powerful shareholders with deep pockets, Henry Ansbacher Holdings, the merchant banking group, is still alive and kicking, and a sorry tale looks set for a happy ending. Yesterday Ansbacher unveiled a staggering bundle of losses and write-offs totalling £31.4 million, which wiped out all but £2.7 million of the group's shareholders' funds and would have left Ansbacher insolvent but for £7.8 million of goodwill relating to profitable insurance broking.

It is doubtful whether Ansbacher on its own could have survived such a blow,

certainly not in its present form, but Albert Frère, the Belgian businessman who already owns 29.9 per cent through associated companies, Pergasa and Groupe Bruxelles Lambert, has come up with a plan. Having invested £23.5 million in the group last year (£14.5 million in the form of convertible loan stock), Pergasa GBL are now underwriting a £35.6 million rights issue at 50p a share and converting their loan stock into equity. They will end up with between 50.7 and 81.4 per cent of Ansbacher, depending on the take up by other shareholders, and plan to make Ansbacher their flagship in London.

The £1.35 billion Pergasa GBL financial empire includes stakes in Drexel Burnham Lambert and various European banks. The idea is that Ansbacher will benefit from being part of this loose federation.

To seasoned Ansbacher watchers, last year's disastrous losses should not have come as a total surprise. In the 1960s and 1970s Ansbacher drifted along a rudderless course, under the nominal control of a succession of big shareholders. At one stage in the 1970s it discussed a merger with Johnson Matthey Bankers! There followed a lively period of expansion and deal-making under Charles (now Lord) Williams as managing director. As erratic profit record was punctuated by some unfortunate write-offs. Lord Williams left earlier this year, it is said £100,000 the richer. Richard Fennells, no stranger to problems at Guinness Mahon, came in early this year and set about, as he said yesterday, "creating a new Ansbacher". Ambitious expansion plans have been unwound and provisions made left, right and centre, leaving two core businesses - merchant banking and insurance broking.

Shareholders are told that the latest debacle is because of "over-ambitious expansion beyond the management and financial resources available to the group, compounded by the absence of adequate cost and operational controls over, and financial reporting systems from, the businesses acquired."

David Leroy-Lewis, Ansbacher's chairman was reluctant to be drawn on the issue of responsibility, beyond saying that in any organization like Ansbacher the chief executive has to bear the blame for basic mistakes.

Shareholders in Ansbacher can count their blessings. Without the Belgian lifeboat their investment would not be worth much today. Yesterday the shares rose 3p to 66p.

Interest rate cut on the cards

Lower interest rates may be on their way, despite recent explosive growth in the money supply which seems to demand dearer, not cheaper, credit. Yesterday sterling touched a peak of \$1.2820, and a low of \$1.2595, before closing in London at just over \$1.27. Lower UK rates would take some of the pressure off sterling from the hot money speculators.

Lower rates might also remove some of the hesitancy which has recently characterized the funding programme. Traders yesterday were surprised to see the Government Broker appear with £400 million of tapelets, including a £250 million tranche of Exchequer 10½ per cent 2005. Popular demand may have motivated a mid-week matinee performance.

Between August 20 and November 7 last year, prior to the British Telecom flotation, bank base rates were stable at 10½ per cent. During November they fell in three steps to 9½ per cent, as the system was flooded with credit. A similar manoeuvre in the run-up to the call on BT shares (on June 24, £1.4 billion is due to be paid over), is not impossible but not probable, as the Bank of England will want to add to the reserves. But a single cut at some stage in the next four weeks should not be ruled out.

Some of the leading players in the discount market take this view. Roger Gibbs, chairman of Gerrard and National, floats the possibility in the 1985 annual report of the discount house, even though money supply and public sector borrowing are not under control. He stresses that any cut in rates would be a tonic.

G & N yesterday disclosed profits for 1985 of £5 million - well down on the 1984 figure of £10.1 million. The house however, still plans to go it alone in the new gilt world after "Big Bang" - an intent based partly on its success in reading the market last year.

Dollar edges ahead despite feeble US economic growth

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The US economy grew by only 0.7 per cent at an annualized rate in the first quarter of the year in the worst performance since the final quarter of 1982, the Commerce Department said yesterday. Growth was revised downwards from an earlier estimate of 1.3 per cent.

During the same period, US corporate profits dropped by \$1 billion (£787 million) or 0.7 per cent, down sharply by 7 per cent or \$10 billion from the first quarter of last year.

The slowdown announced yesterday had been widely anticipated by financial markets, which had expected feeble to zero growth in the first quarter after the decision of the US Federal Reserve Board to cut the discount rate.

As a result, the dollar rose soon after the figures were published, knocking the pound down ¼ cent to \$1.26. Later, the dollar edged back and the pound ended the day in London at \$1.2722.

The figures however presented a dilemma to the Federal Open Market Committee which met yesterday and again today to determine what additional monetary steps need to be taken.

While House officials issued a statement yesterday intended to take the sting out of the new GNP figures: "We remain convinced that, despite the downward revision, all advance economic signs point upward and prospects for renewed growth are good", Mr Larry Speakes, the chief spokesman, said.

But Mr Preston Martin, vice-chairman of the Fed, which acts as a central bank, said this week that the "risks of a growth-recession" had increased significantly over the last few months.

For this reason, economists predict that the 12-member open market committee will authorize further credit easing measures today to be taken only if the economy does not bounce back in the second quarter.

Many analysts expect another discount rate cut by the summer to stimulate growth and another drop in the US prime lending rate to 9.5 per cent from 10 per cent before that.

Mr James Baker, the US Treasury Secretary, told a Senate committee that, after the first quarter slowdown, the economy would not be strong in the present quarter.

He predicted, however, a strong rebound in the third and fourth quarters of the year. Mr Baker denied that the economy was sliding into recession, or that the weaker performance in the first half of the year meant that the overall growth target of close to 4 per cent will not be achieved. The Administration is due to revise its targets next month.

● In Britain, the index of longer leading indicators fell last month, the fourth consecutive monthly decline. David Smith writes. This would normally suggest an economic slowdown early next year. However, officials cautioned that the figures are distorted by the effects of the coal strike and that no firm view can be taken on the next turning point in economic activity.

\$10.5m loan offer to help Lloyd's syndicate

By Allison Eadie

Lloyd's names on marine syndicate 895, who include tennis players Virginia Wade and Mark Cox, are being offered an interest-free loan of £10.5 million over five years to meet estimated underwriting losses of £18.5 million net. Some £10 million has already been paid.

Chase Manhattan Bank has agreed to put up a letter of credit at 1¼ per cent over base rates. The interest will be paid 70 per cent by Willis Faber, which owns the syndicate's managing agency, Spicer & White, and 30 per cent by members' agents. The offer is expected to cost Willis about £2 million.

The unanimous agreement of the 25 members' agents by June 3 is a condition of the offer going ahead. About half of the 243 names will have to stop underwriting at Lloyd's if they do not receive financial help, but there is a danger less hard hit names will hold out and possibly sue.

Acceptance involves waiving legal rights for five years, but not for ever as was the case with Minet Holdings' £38 million compensation offer last year.

If the offer fails, names with a £20,000 share on the syndicate in 1982 will have to pay £25,000 in cash by June 30, as well as providing assets to cover the £12,000 balance of losses, in order to meet Lloyd's solvency requirements.

Net losses of £18.5 million at end December 1984 are £2 million less than estimated at June 30, 1984, because a new approach to reserving produced a surplus in 1981. However, the trading situation could deteriorate by next year, in which case the parties to the offer would have to consider whether they could increase it.

Willis's approach to its underwriting subsidiary is very different to that of Minet, which is closing down its subsidiary, Richard Beckett Underwriting Agencies, now facing losses of £130 million. Minet is offering no assistance.

Fall in dollar 'would cut UK growth'

A sharp dollar depreciation would cut growth in Britain, according to a forecast published today. The prediction, CISI-Wharton Econometric Forecasting Associates, looks at the question of whether Europe can grow faster, under five different sets of assumptions.

The first assumes that the dollar falls by nearly 30 per cent in the second half of this year. This would allow lower interest rates in Britain, but would hit exports. The net effect, according to the forecast, is that gross domestic product is 0.6 per cent lower by 1988.

The second assumption is of lower oil prices. An early fall to \$20 a barrel, would help Europe, but results in 0.3 per cent lower gross domestic product for Britain.

Caparo to sue over Fidelity accounts

By Patricia Wheatcroft

Caparo Industries, which last October paid £14 million for Fidelity, the electronics company, is to sue the auditors, Touche Ross, and some of the former directors of the company.

Caparo is writing off £7.9 million against the acquisition and Mr Swraj Paul, the chairman, says: "Caparo has been advised that it can claim substantial compensation."

Mr Paul claims that both the profits and stock values of Fidelity were heavily overstated in the company's last accounts, the ones on which Caparo's bid was based. For the year to March 1984, Fidelity reported a profit increase from £80,000 to £1.3 million but Caparo says the actual result should have been a loss of £400,000.

Mr Paul also contends that spare parts which were shown as stock worth several million pounds in the Fidelity accounts were obsolete and worthless.

When Caparo first launched its bid, Fidelity said the offer of £13.5 million was inadequate and succeeded in squeezing a little more from Caparo.

Fidelity was set up by Mr Jack Dickman and since his death in 1982 has been run by his three sons.

The oldest, Mr Steven Dick-



Swraj Paul: £7.9m write-off

man, was chairman and managing director until July last year. Two of the Dickman brothers left Fidelity within weeks of Caparo's takeover and the third left a month ago.

Fidelity had suffered a series of trading problems and the 1984 profits were almost £1 million below a rights issue forecast.

Yesterday, Caparo Industries reported 1984 profits up from £1.93 million to £2.76 million and a 10 per cent increase in the dividend. There is a £10.25 million rights issue, full take-up of which will reduce Caparo Group's stake in the company from 75 per cent to 66 per cent.

Citicorp in Billingsgate lease talks

By Judith Huntley
Commercial Property Correspondent

Citicorp International Bank is talking to Samuel Montagu, the merchant bank, about taking over its lease on the \$185,000 sq ft Billingsgate Market development in the City of London. Citicorp confirmed that negotiations are taking place but said that nothing had yet been signed.

It appears that it is only the space in the refurbished former fish market which is under discussion and not the new offices which adjoin it. Citicorp International needs more space since taking Springour Kemp, Gee, and Vickers da Costa, the stockbrokers, under its wing.

Citicorp International also has staff in the Strand at Savoy Court East, the offices at the Savoy Hotel, refurbished by London & Leeds, the property arm of the Ladbroke Group, and at Citibank's headquarters at the Aldwych.

Citicorp says that for the present it intends keeping its Strand offices. Billingsgate Market was developed by S W Beristford, the commodity broker, in partnership with London & Edinburgh Trust, which has a 33 per cent stake in the scheme.

Burton set to bid

Mr Ralph Halpern, chairman of the Burton Group, is poised to launch a bid for Debenhams, Britain's second largest department store. But market sources were last night suggesting that the opening offer would be "some way below" the current share price.

Mr Halpern has the backing of Sir Terence Conran's Habitat Moller chain, which seems likely to enter the battle initially as adviser to Burton on the future development of the Debenhams stores. But Habitat Moller hopes to take over large part of the Debenhams stores.

Debenhams' shares yesterday rose 4p to a peak of 329p, valuing the group at about £450 million.

RHM soars

Ranks Hovis McDougall announced a 56 per cent increase to £36.5 million in pretax profits for the six months to March. Sales were 7 per cent higher at £649 million and the interim dividend is up from 1.6p to 1.84p. *Tempos, page 19*

Merger agreed

Two Kent-based building societies plan to merge by March next forming an organization with assets of slightly more than £100 million. The Chatham Reliance and the Herne Bay societies will recommend to their 46,000 members later this year that a new one, the Kent Reliance, should be created.

ICI is to make a Eurosterling issue of up to £125 million. Of that, £75 million will be issued in one tranche. The bonds will be issued at par, carry a coupon of 11½ per cent and mature in 10 years. This is ICI's second Eurosterling issue in less than a year. Last September, it raised £100 million.

JFB cuts loss

Johnson & Firth Brown, the Sheffield engineer, cut its pretax loss from £5.44 million to £1.21 million before tax in the half year to March. Sales were 18 per cent higher at £37.9 million. There is again no dividend. *Tempos, page 19*

Correction

Sir Anthony Tuke, chairman of The Savoy Hotel, is a non-executive director of Rio Tinto-Zinc Corporation. He is not, as we suggested yesterday, still chairman of RTZ, having retired from that role at the end of March.

Gerrard & National PLC

Results for the year ended 5th April 1985

	1985	1984
Profit for the year	£5.154m	£10.117m
Total cost of Dividends	£4.008m	£3.590m
Disclosed Shareholders' Funds	£60.098m	£57.140m
Total Assets	£3,666.915m	£3,193.699m

Group Profit for the year. Group Profit after providing for taxation, minority interests and a transfer to Inner Reserves amounted to £5,154,000 (1984 £10,117,000).

Dividend. It is proposed that a final dividend of 10.2p (1984 9p) be paid on each Ordinary Share of 25p. When added to the Interim Dividend already paid of 3p (1984 3p) this makes a total of 13.2p (1984 12p) an increase of 10%. The proposed dividend on the Ordinary Shares of 25p each will be paid to Shareholders on the register at the close of business on the 3rd June, 1985.

Disclosed Shareholders' Funds. The Group's Disclosed Shareholders' Funds stand at £60.10 million compared with £57.14 million last year.

Total Assets. The Total Assets of the Group (excluding assets subject to repurchase arrangements) amount to £3,667 million compared with £3,194 million in 1984.

Extracts from the statement of the Chairman, R. G. Gibbs

Review of the Year. It would be no exaggeration to say that the last financial year was one of the most volatile in the history of this country, thus giving your company a very unfavourable trading background. In view of this I am pleased to inform you that group profits for the year amounted to £5,154,000 after taxation, minority interests and a transfer to inner reserves. It has been a difficult but most stimulating twelve months in which turnover has been considerably higher than previously, averaging well over £1 billion a day.

Total Resources. Shareholders may be interested to know that we believe Gerrard and National now accounts for more than one third of the total resources of the London Discount Market compared with one eighth at the time of our merger in 1969.

The Future. We have applied to the Bank of England to become market makers in gilt-edged securities.

We intend to continue expanding all our present activities and particularly to increase our already extensive customer base. The closer relationship between money and capital markets, as well as the structural changes in the City, encourage us to explore further the various logical extensions to our traditional business.

We view the future with confidence and enthusiasm and are sure that there is, and will be, a role for the independent, international, fixed-interest specialist such as ourselves. We emphatically believe we are in the right place at the right time.

The Report and Accounts have been published

Gerrard & National PLC

32 Lombard Street, London EC3V 9BE. Tel: 01-623 9981

Members of the London Discount Market Association

US prepares for French intransigence

US trade officials are compiling a list of foreign agricultural markets in which they could retaliate against any French intransigence over the Common Agricultural Policy which might obstruct a new round of General Agricultural Tariffs and Trade talks in 1986.

Washington is saying publicly that President Mitterrand should be given time to work out his domestic political problems, but there is growing concern that limited time remains to agree an agenda for a new set of trade talks next year, a date for which was blocked at the Bonn summit by France.

American officials yesterday indicated that they could deploy \$2 billion (£1.57 million) as a last resort, to teach the French a lesson.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

FT Ind Ord	1020.2 (+4.2)
FT-A All Share	641.82 (+2.24)
FT Govt Securities	80.91 (+10.06)
FT-SE 100	1334.1 (+3.3)
Bargains	24.281
Dataseam USM	112.08 (-0.38)
New York	
Dow Jones	1303.90 (-0.90)
Tokyo	
Nikkei Dow	12,850.37 (+91.27)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	1612.22 (-26.25)
Amsterdam	209.3 (+1.5)
Sydney: AO	898.1 (-6.3)
Frankfurt	
Commerzbank	1283.8 (+5.0)
Brussels	
General	233.78 (-2.73)
Paris: CAC	223.0 (+1.1)
Zurich	
SKA General	358.00 (+2.20)

GOLD

London: 1000	\$314.90
Am: 1000	\$317.25
Paris: 1000	\$317.75
New York: 1000	\$317.15
Comex: 1000	\$317.15

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Richards (Leicester)	46+11
Ass Brit Eng	5½+1½
Bromsgrove Casting & Msc	32+5
Anglo Eastern	33+13
Goffman Bros	20+2½
City Site Estates	91+11
HS Elect	56+6
Whitworths Fds	128+13
Nesco Inv	61+6
T Clarke	50+4
Regalian Prop	118+10
Barham Grp	638+40
Brammer	347+27
F. H. Tomkins	204+14
Coats Patons	150+11

FALLS:

Nu Swift Ind	59-8
Peters Stores	75-8
Panglaken	450-50
Freeshake	72-7
Metal Sciences	10-1
Johnson and FB	18½-1½
Bulk Resources	12-1
Portman Mng	12-1
Reardon Smith	13½-1
C. H. Bailey	19¼-1½

CURRENCIES

London:	
£: \$1.2722 (-0.025)	
£: DM 3.9996 (+0.0023)	
£: Sfrfr 3.2870 (+0.0038)	
£: FFf 11.8560 (+0.0048)	
£: Yen 318.50 (+0.08)	
£ Index: 79.5 (-0.2)	
New York:	
£: \$1.2777	
£: DM 3.0515	
\$ Index: 145.4 (+1.5)	

INTEREST RATES

London:	
Bank Base: 12½ - 12½	
3-month Interbank: 12½ - 12½	
3-month eligible bills: 12 - 11½	
buying rate	
US:	
Prime Rate: 10.00	
Federal Funds 7½	
3-month Treasury Bills: 7.81 - 7.27	
Long bond yield: 103½ - 105½	

WALL STREET

May 20	May 17	May 20	May 17	May 20	May 17
AME Inc	18 1/2	18 1/2	18 1/2	18 1/2	18 1/2
AMEC	45 1/2	45 1/2	45 1/2	45 1/2	45 1/2
AMEC	45 1/2	45 1/2	45 1/2	45 1/2	45 1/2
AMEC	45 1/2	45 1/2	45 1/2	45 1/2	45 1/2
AMEC	45 1/2	45 1/2	45 1/2	45 1/2	45 1/2
AMEC	45 1/2	45 1/2	45 1/2	45 1/2	45 1/2
AMEC	45 1/2	45 1/2	45 1/2	45 1/2	45 1/2
AMEC	45 1/2	45 1/2	45 1/2	45 1/2	45 1/2
AMEC	45 1/2	45 1/2	45 1/2	45 1/2	45 1/2
AMEC	45 1/2	45 1/2	45 1/2	45 1/2	45 1/2

Dow takes early fall

New York (Agencies) - Shares headed lower in active early trading on the New York Stock Exchange yesterday.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down one point at 1,303.88, the New York Stock Exchange index was down 0.23 to 10.49 and the price of an average share was down 8 cents.

First-hour big-board volume amounted to about 34.09 million shares compared with 47.17 million in the same period on Monday. Declining issues led advancing stock by nearly seven-to-six among the 959 issues crossing the New York Stock Exchange tape.

The S & P 500 and New York Stock Exchange composite index were down fractionally while the Dow Jones transportation average was down about three points and the Dow Jones utility average was down about a point.

Blue chip issues held near their close of Monday. Profit-taking was in evidence after Monday's first close above 1,300.

Domestic resources led the active stocks, up 1/4 at 31%.

COMMODITIES

COMMODITY	PRICE	CHG
Wheat	216.75-167.50	Down
Barley	216.75-167.50	Down
Oats	216.75-167.50	Down
Rye	216.75-167.50	Down
Maize	216.75-167.50	Down

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LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Contract	Open	High	Low	Close	Settle
Three Month Sterling	87.50	87.50	87.50	87.50	87.50
June 85	87.50	87.50	87.50	87.50	87.50
Sept 85	87.50	87.50	87.50	87.50	87.50
Dec 85	87.50	87.50	87.50	87.50	87.50
Mar 86	87.50	87.50	87.50	87.50	87.50

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AUTHORIZED UNIT TRUSTS

Unit Trust	Price	Chg
AMEC	45 1/2	Down
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STOCK MARKET REPORT

Dee Corporation carries out its Booker McConnell sale threat

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

Dee Corporation, the thriving food group headed by Mr Alec Monk, yesterday carried out its threat to sell its near 16 per cent shareholding in Booker McConnell, the food-to-health-products group.

It sold its shares, worth more than £50 million, to a variety of buyers. An announcement confirming the disposal, carried out by Rowe and Pitman, the broker, is expected shortly.

When his £350 million bid for Booker failed, Mr Monk said he intended to sell the shareholding "at our convenience in a manner which will be of the most benefit to Dee shareholders". Just before launching his £335 million bid he raised more than a few City eyebrows by reducing his Booker stake by 4 per cent.

The Dee sale was well-timed with Booker's shares drawing the benefit from an analyst visit to the company's American operations.

Booker bitterly resisted the Dee offer which was cleared early this year by the Monopolies Commission.

The Dee bid was worth about 270p a share. After the sale the Booker price was up 4p to 260p. Dee shares rose 8p to 250p.

Helping the Dee price was the growing feeling that present year profits could hit £80 million against earlier expectations of £70 million.

With the proceeds of its Booker sale and its strengthening share price it would appear that the ambitious Mr Monk has another take over target in his sights. Popular guess was that he could well descend on either the Kwik Save Discount or Hillards supermarket chains.

Costs Patons, the Glasgow textile group, became a lively market as the City heard there are plans afoot to launch a American depository receipts

(ADR) facility for the shares in the US. Next month there will be two presentations to American brokers and investors in New York and Boston as a prelude to the launch.

Directors of Coats also had lunch at James Capel, the broker, and the profusion of news on the share marketing side brought an 11p jump in the share price to 150p. The company made profits of close on £110 million last year, against £87 million in 1983, and encouraging trading news for the present year is expected to

Telephone Rentals fell 5p to 208p yesterday as Laurie Milbank & Co, the broker, pondered the company's vulnerability to growing competition from British Telecom. Mr Patrick Hickey, the analyst, rates the shares a sell. He believes growth will be slow and forecasts profits of £16 million this year and £17 million next year.

be revealed in those upcoming presentations.

Nottingham Manufacturing, the hosiery and knitwear supplier which has Marks and Spencer as a main customer, dipped 2p to 212p as it was paid a visit by another stockbroker firm. The Zoete & Sevan took a look at the group which is well-fancied to be the next big takeover target for Vantona Viyella.

On the building and construction pitches, Taylor Woodrow pushed another 15p higher to 438p as market men still wait to hear where a chunk of shares has gone. The Prudential Corporation sold a sizeable holding in TW stock on Monday, and City analysts believe it has gone to one buyer. The prospect of falling

interest rates and a buoyant property market helped bring rises elsewhere in the sector. John Laing 'A' shares rose 10p to 228p and Costain Group rose 10p to 390p.

Shares in George Wimpey traded around the 124p level as investors made up their minds about the company's denial of any intention to sell off its Canadian subsidiary and of any stake building in its shares.

Equities started the day on a bright note, helped by Wall Street's overnight strength and continuing hopes of an interest rate cut.

But there was little follow through and the market experienced an uneventful day with the FT 30 share index enjoying a 4.2 points gain to 1,020.2 points - just 4.3 points from its peak. The more broadly based FT-SE share index closed 3.3 points higher at 1,334.1 points. At one stage it recorded a 6.6 points gain.

Government stocks were mixed with the Treasury issuing two 'triplets', one of them a long, worth £400 million. Shorts were down 1/2p with medium and long achieving gains of up to 1/2p.

Barham Group continues to thrive on the back of a bullish forecast from a stockbroker. The shares rose 40p to 638p, making a two-day gain of 10p.

Christies International, the auctioneers, rose 17p to 560p, looking as though the recent period of weakness is over. Following last month's doubled profits of £17.25 million, the shares came in for some profit-taking, but now look ready to head back toward peak levels in the mid 600s.

On the packaging and paper sector lists, both DRG and Metal Box - bid favourites in some quarters - were moving ahead DRG, known for its

Basildon Bond writing paper, touched 189p before settling for a 6p rise to 176p. Metal Box, where stake-building by Lord Hanson has been speculated, ended the day 12p higher at 400p.

ESG, the vehicle distribution group which has been the subject of private takeover negotiations for some months, rose 1p to 25 1/2p, a touch better than the 25p price which has been suggested as the potential bidders' upper limit.

Braner shares jumped another 26p to 347p as speculative

Note the strength of Ann Street Brewery, the Jersey business. Its shares, traded under the special dealing rule, have surged from the equivalent of 310p to 425p in the past few months. The company recently announced profits of £2.3 million and could reach £27 million this year, putting the shares on not much more than nine times earnings. A USM presence is a possibility.

excitement about the shares grew. The engineering and distribution group has been high on the bid possibilities list for some months, and market talk refuses to die down even though main contender Bunnell sold off its stake in Brammer two months ago.

Mr John Head, chairman of Brammer, says he is not aware of any other takeover approach or stake build up, with trading volume in his group's shares described as light and largely of a speculative nature.

Brammer is offering £40 million for Energy Services and Electronics, a bid which is thought of as a defensive move by some observers. But Mr Head says: "It is nothing of the sort. We have had ESE in view for some time, but could not

make a move while we had Bunnell hanging over us."

Birmid shares showed every sign of special interest being taken in them, rising 3p to 90p, within 2p of its best ever level.

A takeover approach is on the cards, though perhaps not from the quarter formerly expected.

F H Tomkins has been expected to try a reverse into Birmid, but Tomkins chief, Mr Greg Hutchins, appeared to rule that out last week when discussing the reasons for his company's recent rights issue.

Birmid would be a tidy mouthful for any number of engineering and industrial predators, with the present share price of F H Tomkins moves into record ground yet again, the ordinary stock up 14p to 204p and the nil paid also 14p better at 54p.

Debenhams, the stores group, continued to attract takeover speculations. The shares were at one time 7p higher at 332p.

Fisons, on a cheerful statement at the shareholders' meeting, went ahead 14p to 345p.

Breweries were mixed with a 9 per cent profit gain by the largest regional, Greenall Whitley, disappointing. Greenall shares fell 10p to 175p. But Bass and Allied-Lyons hit new peaks. Whitbread also advanced.

Newcomer Helmes and Marchant, a marketing consultancy, achieved a 75p premium over its 300p placing price. Monday's newcomers Datron and Viewplan made progress. Viewplan, a broadcast equipment hire company, was traded at 121p, up 3p overnight but only 1p above its placing price. Datron, placed at 84p, rose a further 2p to 103p.

Food shares generally were enlivened by the Ranks Hovis McDougall results.

Why Britain is not yet a nation of Sainsburys

TEMPUS

In the days when Napoleon said that Britain was a nation of shopkeepers, the name Sainsbury was still 30 years away from making its appearance on a carrier bag. The family was in no rush to follow the crowd into the high street - an attitude that in many respects still applies.

For while the Sainsbury name is well known in parts of the country, there are still large areas which are unaware of the Sainsbury brand of food retailing. This is a fact which allows Sir John Sainsbury, the chairman, to rest easy in his bed at night rather than worry about where the company's astonishing growth will come from in future.

The Sainsbury chain has expanded very steadily from its traditional base in the South-east rather than embracing on a series of acquisitions to provide blanket coverage. The strategy has worked well. Yesterday, the company reported another record year with sales topping £3 billion for the first time and pretax profits rising from £130 million to £156.4 million.

It is a story of continued sales growth through a combination of increased selling space and volume gains. It is also, more remarkably, a story of improved net margins, up from 4.97 per cent to 5.06 per cent on gross margins which were static.

Even Sir John admits that net margins have now probably peaked. They can be maintained but volumes will provide the main sources of future growth.

Geographically, there is plenty of scope for expansion in the North and in Scotland which is virtually untouched (just one SavaCentre in Edinburgh). The big secondary advantage for Sainsbury is that it is moving into areas where property prices are cheaper rather than a chain like Asda which has to penetrate the more expensive market in the South.

There is also considerable potential for the company through increasing the size of its established stores. More than 40 per cent of the company's selling space may have been opened in the last five years but there are still only 110 out of a total of 253 stores which are big enough to

sell the entire Sainsbury product range.

With the Homebase DIY chain set to make a first-time contribution to profits this year, Sainsbury remains as soundly based as ever for the future. The shares, down 2p at 343p, are a strong hold. They are a little expensive to buy on a short-term view but in the long term will not disappoint.

RHM

Plainly Ranks Hovis McDougall cannot live on bread alone - interim losses on milling might have been £5 million - but it is now nearing subsistence if not survival level after its long-term paring down exercises.

Extensive cutbacks at the bakeries, coupled with investment in more efficient flour milling plants, should bring the business to breakeven point by the start of 1986. Having lost possibly between £10 million and £12 million in the last full year that would represent a significant turnaround.

A second factor in the latest results, ahead by 56 per cent to £36.5 million before tax on sales only 7 per cent higher at £649 million, was an excellent performance in the United States. Apparently the company succeeded in holding off the competition - even in New Jersey - in its main business of selling pasta, tomato pastes and apple juices.

The first half seems to have desired some benefit from the cold weather which affects demand for bread and salt. The second half is therefore unlikely to see the same increase in profits. But £67 million looks in sight for the year, making the p/e ratio 11 with the shares at 165p. Speculation over the future S & W Berisford's near 15 per cent stake may continue to keep the price buoyant, but the shares are not cheap on fundamentals.

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Cynics claim that most of the advertising group's growth stems from acquisitions. Saatchi emphatically rejects this, stressing that organic growth, net of acquisitions, in the first six months, was around 50 per cent, with sales on the same basis up by nearly 30 per cent. These figures place gains by the overall British business of 29 per cent, and by the international side of 63 per cent, in some perspective.

The S & S formula works on a number of levels, and only part of the growth comes from new clients.

The shares rose 20p to 650p after the figures, but may have still further to go. Saatchi is vague about its relationship with the macro-aggregates, but US moves towards cheaper money seem bound to boost consumption and hence billings.

Johnson & Firth Brown

Three years ago Johnson & Firth Brown thought a joint venture with British Steel would be its salvation. Dealing with the public sector has proved more hazardous than JFB can have foreseen: the company should have learnt from the experience.

The jointly-owned company, Sheffield Forgemasters, has probably lost £35 million since it was set up. Measured against BSC's other losses, this must be trifling. But for JFB the effect has been traumatic: assets have fallen by about £20 million to £47 million. In the six months to March, JFB's share of the Forgemasters' loss was £2.65 million.

The rest of JFB managed to lift profits from £913,000 to £1.43 million before tax, leaving the group with a £1.21 million pretax loss (loss £2.54 million).

Being the bullet on Forgemasters would entail a write-off of £22 million or so. That would leave gearing high, but the company is also planning three disposals.

Meanwhile, annual profits before Forgemaster losses are running at about £3 million. At 19p, that makes the p/e 10 (on an adjusted basis). The shares are already taking some account of the planned reconstruction.

Saatchi & Saatchi

Saatchi & Saatchi prefigured its interim results in the April cash raising exercise. Typically, it has managed to exceed the outline forecast of £15 million by about £500,000. The interim dividend goes up from 3.3p to 5.3p.

Traded option highlights

Volume on the traded options market reached 7,414 contracts, with British Telecom again providing much of the excitement. The BT share price on the main market dipped 2p to 156p and a total of 1,670 contracts changed hands.

The currency option stays prominent, but is hardly overwhelming dealers. A total of 485

currency contracts were traded.

The gilt option stays popular, with 449 contracts changing hands as more market attention focusses on Government stocks. GEC provided the only other point of interest in the options market, registering a volume of 501 contracts. Prices across the option list showed limited changes.

390 in new insurers' association

By Richard Thomson

The Association of British Insurers, the first body to represent the whole spectrum of the British insurance market, is to begin operations on July 1.

Mr Brian Corby, chief executive of the Prudential and chairman-designate of the new organization, said that over 390 insurers, covering more than 90 per cent of the British insurance market, had agreed to join the association.

The ABI will replace the eight bodies, including the British Insurance Association and the Life Offices Association have represented various areas of the industry.

The form of the ABI will follow proposals set out earlier this year. There will be two main councils covering general and life assurance as well as a public affairs committee to deal with the ABI's publicity. The costs of the ABI will be borne by member companies on a scale relating to their premium income.

CHELTENHAM GOLD

UP TO 10.75% NET

NO NOTICE. NO PENALTIES

FROM 22 MAY 1985

Cheltenham Gold Account	Interest Paid	Net %	Compounded Annual Rate %†	Gross Equivalent CAR %*
NEW HIGHER RATE £20,000 or more	Annually	10.75	10.75	15.36
£500 - £19,999	Annually	10.25	10.25	14.64
£1 - £499	Annually	8.25	8.25	11.79
Cheltenham Gold Monthly Interest Account				
NEW HIGHER RATE £20,000 or more	Monthly	10.25	10.75	15.36
£5,000 - £19,999	Monthly	9.8	10.25	14.64

Rates may vary. Maximum investment now £250,000.

*Gross equivalent to basic rate tax payers. †When interest added to account.

C&G Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society

Chief Office: Cheltenham House, Clarence Street, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL50 3JR. Telephone: 0242 36161.

Member of the Building Societies Association and Investors' Protection Scheme. Over 400 branches and agents. See Yellow Pages. Assets exceed £2,600 million.

In the interim....

GOOD NEWS

- Profit before taxation for the 3 months was £6,855,000 (1984 £4,745,000).
- Interim dividend 1.0p (0.85p equivalent first 3 months 1984).
- Sales rose from £69,504,000 to £104,081,000, an increase of 49.7%.
- Earnings per share increased by 21.9% to 3.84p (1984 3.15p).

Overall, the Chairman is confident that, subject to unforeseen circumstances, Bibby will again achieve a good performance for the year as a whole.

The Company is reporting on interim results on only 3 months trading to March 30, in line with a new year-end of September 28, 1985.

J. BIBBY & SONS PLC
Richmond House, 1 Rumbold Place, Liverpool L3 9QQ.

AGRICULTURE ♦ INDUSTRY ♦ DISTRIBUTION
WHERE IT ALL COMES TOGETHER



1984 Another year of significant growth for Banco di Sicilia.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM BANCO DI SICILIA ANNUAL REPORT 1984

	1984	1983
Capital and Reserves	1,089.2	947.9
Total Loans and Advances	16,779.0	14,274.4
Total Deposits	23,493.2	19,881.7
Total Assets (excluding Contra Accounts)	29,112.6	24,213.8
Net Profit*	18.6	13.3

* After allowing 77 billion Lire for depreciation and 167 billion Lire for provisions.

BRANCHES OPENED IN 1984

In Italy: Ascoli Piceno, Latina, Padova, Ravenna

Abroad: Los Angeles (Foreign Branch), Paris

Representative Office in Singapore



Banco di Sicilia

Head Office: Via Mariano Stabile 182, Palermo.
International Banking Division-Head Office: Via del Corso 271, Roma.
Branches Abroad: Frankfurt a/M, London, Los Angeles (Foreign Branch), New York, Paris.
Representative Offices: Bruxelles, Budapest, Chicago, Munich, Singapore, Zurich.

Marsh & McLennan -a truly global enterprise



INFORMATION MEETING

An Information Meeting will be held at 3pm on Thursday 30th May, 1985, at The Carpenters Hall, 1 Throgmorton Avenue, London, E.C.2. The Chairman of the Board and other members of management will summarise the proceedings of the annual meeting of stockholders of Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc., which was held in New York on 16th May, 1985, and respond to questions. Stockholders and other interested persons are cordially invited to attend.

Marsh & McLennan | **Bowring**

Copies of Marsh & McLennan Annual Report for 1984 and proxy statement may be obtained on application to The Secretary, C T Bowring & Co. Limited, The Bowring Building, Tower Place, London EC3P 3BE (Tel: 01-283 3100 ext 2011).

Overseas trade profits need to be tax-free

The British economy and British business cannot escape from the international dimension. Foreign trade accounts for 27 per cent of our gross national product, so there is no alternative to being competitive.

It is a fact of industrial life that industrialists faced with an average 3 per cent real growth rate must look to world markets if their companies are to achieve the growth rates which will meet their shareholders' expectations. At the same time the British economy is becoming more dependent on foreign investment in Britain, where foreign-owned companies now account for nearly 20 per cent of employment and output and more than 25 per cent of capital investment.

There is no escape from the international dimension, whether for the British economy or for British business. We are a country where 27 per cent

INDUSTRY TODAY



By Sir Eric Sharp

of the gross national product is represented by the foreign trade sector (it is still less than 10 per cent in the United States). We cannot opt out of world trade and investment flows. We have no alternative to being competitive.

What do industrialists require of government if they are to achieve their own objectives of sustained growth, improved competitiveness and financial strength?

● An externally stable currency. Stability in this context means a variation in exchange rates which can be absorbed at reasonable cost in production schedules and contracts, including foreign exchange contracts.

● An internally stable currency so that unit costs and interest rates are in line with our competitors.

● No dramatic swings in fiscal and industrial policy.

By this I do not mean that there should be no significant or radical shifts in fiscal or economic direction. I am suggesting that such radical shifts should be signalled well in advance of the normal Budget process.

Whatever the merits of the phased reduction of capital allowances or regional grants may be for long-term resource allocation, the announcement of such important changes has an immediate impact on many companies which have had little or no opportunity to plan for such changes or to make alternative arrangements to their own resource allocation and strategic direction.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer's dilemma in reconciling long-term strategies with short-term difficulties is, of course, equally industry's dilemma in planning long-term investments against short-run effects of the Budget.

The fact remains that industry needs all the help it can get

A stable domestic environment is essential

in planning ahead to meet the objective of sustained economic growth. It needs above all a stable environment domestically if it is to capture a bigger share of world trade. And in my view, the objective of economic growth can be achieved only if Britain captures a greater share of world trade.

The financing of trade overseas - particularly of large projects - now has to be competitive with the financing available to our principal competitors.

Interest rates as well as internal labour and raw material costs are an integral part of the cost structure. It is to be hoped that reliance on interest rates as an instrument of short-term policy in the management of exchange rates - if indeed exchange rates can be managed - should not be at the expense of the possibly more difficult task, politically and socially, of controlling money aggregates at source.

How can British businessmen be encouraged to seek opportunities overseas in such a way that the British economy also expands? A bold step for the Government would be to free profits arising from overseas trade, including direct export, whether through a branch, agency or non-resident subsidiary, from all British tax.

The Government recognized this in 1957 and gave a measure of relief at the time for a limited period. The introduction of a similar type of relief today would recognize that with some overseas tax rates and advance corporation tax the burden of tax on British multi-national companies remains high.

I believe these changes would result in an overall gain to the British economy and thus to the Exchequer. It would reinstate a situation which existed for a period more than 20 years ago.

The types of business which qualified for relief included manufacturing and processing, public utilities, distribution, agriculture and mining. Ship-

ping, banking and insurance concerns were specifically excluded.

Tax reliefs on overseas earnings, removed in the Finance Act 1965, were certainly of benefit; they would be of far greater benefit 20 years later in 1985, when overseas markets have expanded, the opportunities for export increased and many British companies are in a better position to seize such opportunities, particularly in the growing sector of specialized services unique to the City, as well as telecommunications.

These changes would encourage the development of trade overseas and the establishment of overseas businesses. They would encourage job opportunities both directly and indirectly. Businesses would not seek to avoid repatriating profits, thereby creating another

Tax relief would foster new overseas businesses

factor towards stability of the currency.

Opportunities, for example, abound in China. The Chinese eagerly seek low interest rate loans. If the interest received were, like profits from overseas ventures, not subject to British tax, businesses would be encouraged to lead to China directly from Britain instead of from a non-British source which does not pay foreign earnings, with consequent economic benefits to that location instead of Britain.

Would such a radical move cost the Treasury dearly? I doubt it. Removal of the need to continue to seek innovative measures to attract British tax solely to generate funds at acceptable costs to pursue further overseas opportunities could only encourage greater use of the excellent British financial markets and, directly and indirectly, stimulate the British economy.

Such fiscal discrimination would probably be vigorously resisted by traditionalists in the Inland Revenue and elsewhere. We can remain externally respectable by operating a fiscal system neutral as between importers on the one hand and exporters and foreign exchange earners on the other.

Or we can adopt a positive approach in assisting those manufacturing and other industries which are endeavouring to capture a greater share of world trade against competitors who are assisted by their national institutions in adopting appropriate fiscal measures including preferential financing of export and overseas projects.

After all, Japan has recently introduced import promotion measures that include tax benefits for importers; it is beyond the Chancellor's powers to introduce tax benefits (not subsidies) for exporters and earners of foreign exchange. Manufacturers who are faced with internal burdens of high local rates, high interest rates and high energy costs and who are urged to become more aggressive, innovative and competitive would like to see similar responses by the Treasury and their agencies in the Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise of innovative fiscal measures designed to support industry in its difficult task of winning a greater share of world trade.

This objective must be achieved if we are to see a significant increase in economic activity and through such expansion an increase in the taxable revenue base to fund national needs.

The author is chairman and chief executive of Cable and Wireless.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	12 1/2%
Adam & Company	12 1/2%
Barclays	12 1/2%
BCCI	12 1/2%
Citibank	12 1/2%
Consolidated Credit	12 1/2%
Continental Trust	12 1/2%
Co-operative Bank	12 1/2%
C. Hoare & Co.	12 1/2%
Lloyds Bank	12 1/2%
Midland Bank	12 1/2%
Nat Westminster	12 1/2%
NBS	12 1/2%
Williams & Glyn's	12 1/2%
W. & A. Glyn	12 1/2%
W. & A. Glyn	12 1/2%

NATIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK LIMITED

(Incorporated in the State of Victoria, Australia)
Notice is hereby given that the Register of members and Transfer books of the Company will be closed on 7th June, 1985 for one day only for the purpose of payment of the interim dividend on 12th July, 1985. Transfers must be lodged not later than 5 p.m. on 6th June, 1985.
Secretary

SAINSBURY'S

"For the 6th successive year, profit before tax and profit sharing has increased by over 20%. In ten years profit has grown from £15.4 million to over £168 million, a compound annual increase of 30.4% which after allowing for inflation is equivalent to 17.6% real growth per annum."

Sir John Sainsbury

Other points from the Chairman's Statement:

* Sales in Sainsbury outlets increased by 16% to reach £3,071 million and in Homebase by 60% to £64 million. Supermarket volume growth was similar to last year's, at over 9%. Sainsbury's price competitiveness has been improved still further, particularly in relation to major competitors.

* The Group's investment programme increased last year to the record figure of £246 million. The 18 new supermarkets opened had an average size of over 26,000 sq. ft., the highest ever. Homebase now has 23 stores, having opened a further 9 during the year with an average selling space of 46,000 sq. ft. per store.

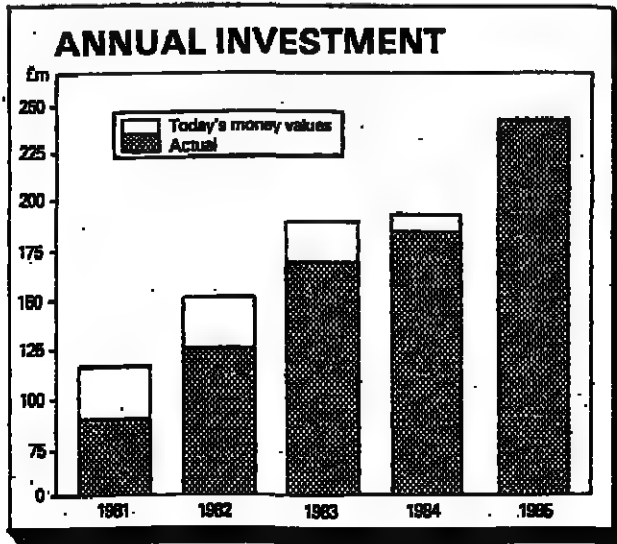
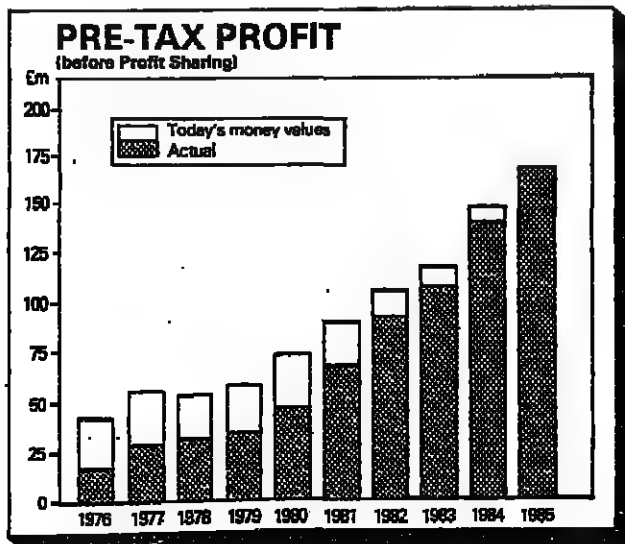
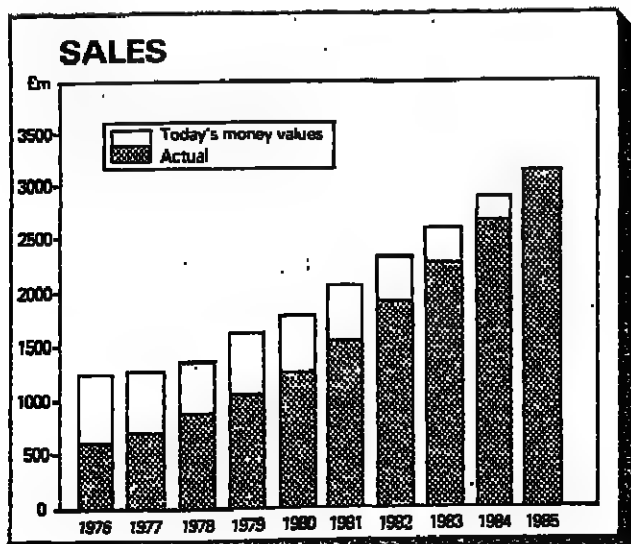
RESULTS	1985	1984	%
£ million	58 weeks to 23rd March	52 weeks to 24th March	increase
Sales	3,135.3	2,688.5	16.6
Retail Profit	158.8	133.7	18.7
Net Margin	5.06%	4.97%	
Associates	9.7	8.0	60.1
Profit before Tax and Profit Sharing	168.5	139.7	20.5
Profit Sharing	12.1	9.7*	24.1
Tax	48.0	41.0	16.9
Earnings per Share (35% tax)	14.64p	12.28p	19.4
Dividend per Share - net for year	4.50p	3.75p	20.0

* Restated on a comparable basis.

* SavaCentre opened its sixth hypermarket, in Edinburgh, where sales far exceeded forecast. In total, SavaCentre's sales increased by 17% to £235 million, whilst profits advanced by nearly a million pounds to £9.7 million.

* The performance of the Group's American associate, Shaw's, was also satisfactory with sales advancing by 14% to \$812 million and profit before tax up by 11% to \$20.2 million.

* Over 30,000 staff will benefit from profit sharing and receive in cash or shares the equivalent of about 4 weeks' pay. With the continued success of the employee share schemes, 13,500 staff, representing over a quarter of all our shareholders, now own Company shares.



Good food costs less at Sainsbury's....every year.

150 من الجاهل

Menzies pays £8.4m for Early Learning shops

By Jeremy Warner

Fine Art Developments has sold its fast-growing Early Learning chain of children's toy shops to John Menzies for £8.4 million.

Fine Art said that the sale would transform its highly-gearbed balance sheet and release funds for spending on the group's mainstream activities of mail order and greetings cards.

Early Learning was bought by Fine Art for £1.7 million four years ago, and Fine Art has since invested £3.7 million in the company's rapid store expansion.

This is John Menzies' first venture into specialist retailing although it already sells toys through its High Street newsagents.

Menzies has been at the centre of revived stock market

speculation that Arthur Guinness, which wants to expand in retailing, might make a takeover bid. But Mr Thomas Callaghan, managing director, said yesterday that the company had received no approaches, nor was there any evidence of a large share stake being built up.

Fine Art announced the sale with figures showing that pretax profits in the year to March 31 had more than doubled from £3.4 million to a record £7.2 million. Of that, Early Learning contributed nearly £1 million. Selective Paper Group, which the company bought a year ago for £13 million, made a first-time contribution of about £2 million.

Fine Art believes that there is further significant scope for improvement both in the

coming year and in the longer term.

A review of efficiency and mailing techniques is being undertaken in the traditional mail order business, and the company is expanding its sale of greetings cards directly to smaller retailers, an area of the card market where it has been weak in the past.

Meanwhile, a final dividend of 2.1p is being recommended, raising the total for the year from 3p to 3.2p. Mr Richard Beecham's privately-owned Tamwade Group is selling Wembley Playcraft Sports & Toys, Britain's largest manufacturer of sports balls and playballs, to Mr Philip Harrison, a management consultant, for more than £1 million. The deal is being financed by National Westminster Bank.

COMPANY NEWS

● **EXECUTEX CLOTHES:** The board considers that the group's finances can be best restructured by the sale of two properties in Leeds, one of which is leasehold and the other freehold. The leasehold premises comprise a modern, purpose-built single-storey clothing factory and offices affording a total net usable area of about 53,800 sq ft on a site area of about 1.9 acres.

● **HIGHLAND PASTRY:** Loss before tax £39,111 and loss after tax £45,211 for 1984. This reflects the expenses incurred in relation to the rights issue last July, together with the administrative costs associated with reorganization and running of the company. No income was received from trading activities during the year. The figures therefore bear little relationship to the company's present trading activities.

● **MURRAY TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENTS:** Dividend 0.5p (0.6p) for the year to March 31, payable on August 23. Revenue £478,232 (£475,885). Expenses £341,075 (£362,122). Revenue £131,104 (£113,763) before tax of £45,742 (£19,007). Earnings per share 0.7p (0.63p). Net asset value per share 133.5p (139.1p).

● **YORKLYDE:** Results for the year to January 31. Final 3.75p making 6p (5p). (Figures in £000) Turnover 6,320 (4,949). Pretax profit 1,836 (£1,773). Tax 720 (£502). Special Credit included in profit nil (79). Earnings per share 23.8p (16.3p).

● **RADIO CLYDE:** Results for six months to March 31. Interim 1.5p (same), payable on July 12. (Figures in £000). Turnover 2,117 (2,633). Pretax profit 189 (354). Tax 80 (168). Extraordinary debit nil (78). Earnings per share preextraordinary items 1.91p (3.28p).

● **ASSET SPECIAL SITUATIONS TRUST:** Final 0.3p (0.46p) making 0.96p (0.88) for the

year to March 31. (Figures in £000) Gross revenue 224 (198). Pretax revenue 160 (129). After administration expenses 57 (50). Interest 7 (20). Tax 49 (41). Earnings per share 1.1p (0.88p).

● **ROSEHAUGH:** Results for six months to December 31, 1984. No interim dividends (Figures in £000). Turnover 4,030 (8,873). Gross profit 3,316 (2,455) including dividends and interest from listed investments 5 (51). Administration and staff costs 1,093 (761). Interest

payable and similar charges less interest received and similar income £66 (£204). Pretax profit 1,257 (1,190). Tax 539 (325). Earnings per share 9.8p (11.85p).

● **FALCON MINES:** For the year to March 31. Figures in £000. Working profit at mine Dalry 5,398 (6,417). Venice 1,188 (726). Total mine profit 6,586 (7,143). Share of Olympus net 211 (75). Administration 3 (49). Current tax 1,303 (1,846). Prior years tax adj 42 (-). Net profit after tax 5,333 (5,332). Expenditure on mining assets 3,229 (3,317).

● **PERSONAL ASSETS TRUST:** Dividend 0.2p (0.4p) for the year to April 30. Figures in £000. Total income 183 (184). Interest received 15 (19) and underwriting commission 7 (nil). Pretax revenue 67 (92) after interest and expenses 116 (92). Tax 35 (30), attributable 32 (62). Earnings per share 0.21p (0.43p). Net assets value 40.2p (32.13p).

● **FISON:** Fison is to purchase the scientific instrument subsidiary of Carlo Erba in Milan. The total proposed investment is £12.5 million. Fison also proposes to buy the American distributor of Carlo Erba instruments, and has purchased Austin Biological Laboratories of Texas for \$2 million.

● **BRITISH AND AMERICAN FILM HOLDINGS:** Group pretax profits £311,562 (£434,051). Tax £135,951 (£129,806).

SIEMENS

Information for Siemens shareholders

10,000 more employees

New orders and sales continue to rise

Two-figure growth rates for new orders and sales, the addition of 10,000 new employees, and a net profit margin of 2.4% characterized

the first half of the current financial year of Siemens AG (1 October 1984 to 31 March 1985).

New orders

New orders increased 11% to £7,490m; without power plant business the rate of growth was even higher at 15%. Domestic orders in the Federal Republic of Germany rose 4% to £3,646m. By contrast, business from abroad was more vigorous, causing international orders to rise 18% to £3,844m. Sizeable first-half orders were placed by Singapore for data switching systems; by Indonesia for EWSD exchanges and diesel power plants; by Kuwait,

Libya, and Saudi Arabia for switchgear installations; by Taiwan for EWSD container exchanges; and by China for the electrical equipment for the hot-rolling mill in Bao Shan.

In £m	1/10/83 to 31/3/84	1/10/84 to 31/3/85	Change
New orders	6,773	7,490	+11%
Domestic business	3,512	3,646	+4%
International business	3,261	3,844	+18%

Sales

Due largely to the billing of two nuclear power plants, Gundremmingen C and Grohnde, Siemens sales leaped 33% to £6,959m. But even without power plant business, growth increased 10%. In the German domestic market, sales totalled £3,882m, a 7% rise excluding power plants. International business grew 8% to £3,077m. A better than average growth was recorded by four operating groups: Components, Power Engineering and Automation, Communication and Information Systems, and,

in international business, Medical Engineering. For the current financial year as a whole, both new orders and sales are expected to top £13m.

In £m	1/10/83 to 31/3/84	1/10/84 to 31/3/85	Change
Sales	5,223	6,959	+33%
Domestic business	2,369	3,882	+64%
International business	2,854	3,077	+8%

Orders in hand

Siemens orders in hand totalled £15,784m on 31 March, while inventories remained essentially unchanged at £5,226m.

In £m	30/9/84	31/3/85	Change
Orders in hand	15,390	15,784	+3%
Inventories	5,164	5,226	+1%

Employees

With the influx of new orders, Siemens was able to increase the number of its employees by 10,000, bringing the first-half total to 338,000. Seven thousand additional people were employed in the Federal Republic of Germany and Berlin (West) and 3,000 abroad, expanding the domestic work force to 231,000 employees and the international to 107,000. In the months ahead, this trend is likely to slow appreciably. On average, Siemens employed 332,000 people in the first half of the year - 4% more than in the same period last year. Employment costs rose 10% to £2,456m.

In thousands	30/9/84	31/3/85	Change
Employees	328	338	+3%
Domestic operations	224	231	+3%
International operations	104	107	+3%

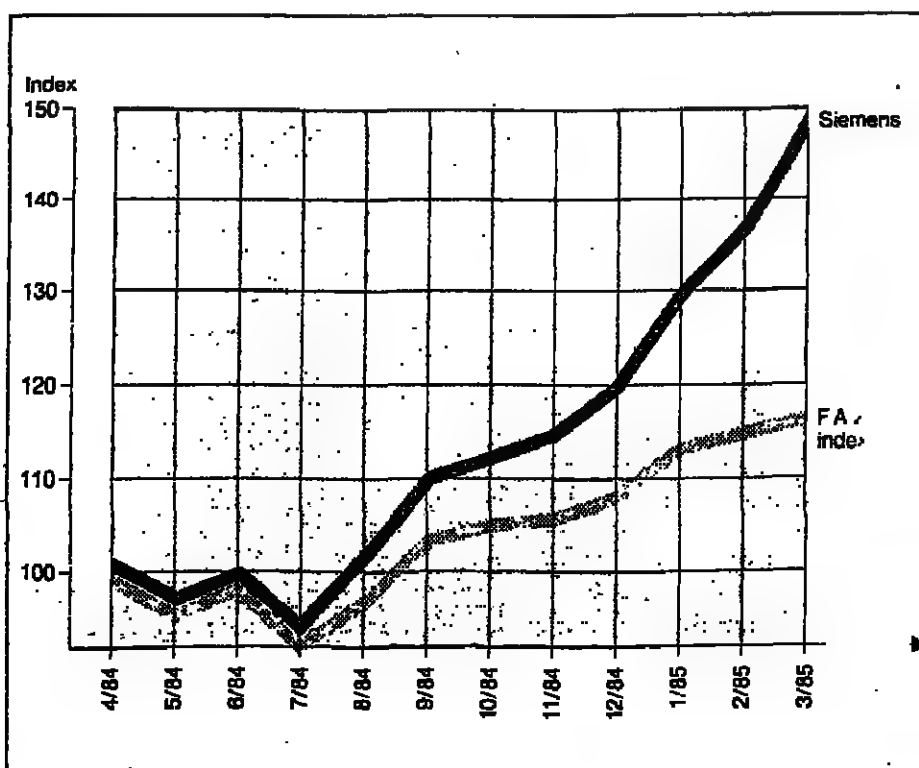
	1/10/83 to 31/3/84	1/10/84 to 31/3/85	Change
Average number of employees in thousands	321	332	+4%
Employment costs in £m	2,228	2,456	+10%

Capital spending and net income

Capital expenditure and investment for the first six months of the current financial year was £349m, 48% more than in the first half of the preceding year. There will continue to be a strong increase of expenditure during the latter half of the year. With net income after taxes at £166m (last year £107m) Siemens achieved a first-half net profit margin of 2.4%. The net profit margin for the total preceding financial year was 2.3%.

In £m	1/10/83 to 31/3/84	1/10/84 to 31/3/85	Change
Capital expenditure and investment	237	349	+48%
Net income after taxes	107	166	+56%
In % of sales	2.0	2.4	

All amounts translated at Frankfurt middle rate on 29 March 1985: £1 = DM 3.845



Accelerated increase in price of Siemens shares

The increase of the Siemens dividend from DM 8 to DM 10 and the possibility of acquiring new shares at an attractive subscription rate have led to a strong appreciation in the market price of Siemens shares in recent months. Although more marked now, this upward trend began in the 1983/84 financial year in response to positive reports about the Company's improved earnings position and conspicuous innovative capability. While the price of Siemens shares rose 47.9% from April 1984 to March 1985, the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung's share price index showed an increase for the same period of only 15.6%.

Siemens AG

In Great Britain: Siemens Ltd.
Siemens House, Windmill Road, Sunbury-on-Thames
Middlesex, TW16 7HS

Taylor Woodrow teamwork achieves record turnover and profit

Mr. Dick Puttick, Chairman and Chief Executive, reports: It is pleasing to be able to report that your company has achieved its twenty-fourth consecutive year of growth, with record levels of turnover and profit.

Set against the continuing background of intense competition and slender profit margins presently available in the construction industry, the attainment of these not unsatisfactory results is a reflection of the fine performance of the Taylor Woodrow team and the great breadth of the group's operations.

This year sees the fiftieth anniversary of the public flotation of Taylor Woodrow and this event provides me with a timely opportunity to renew the board's thanks to our shareholders for their loyal support over the years; the continued maintenance of the free enterprise system, to which we strongly subscribe for its contribution to improving the quality of life worldwide, is greatly dependent

elsewhere, housing and energy-related activities have also had a good year. Housing activities, particularly in North America, again showed a noteworthy increase, whilst in the property sector gross rents moved up from £25.0 million to £32.2 million.

The Group had a positive cash flow in 1984 of £7 million, and liquid funds at 31st December 1984 were £82.9 million. Properties were valued as at 31st December 1984 yielding a net surplus of £9 million which was credited to revaluation reserves. Shareholders funds, including retained profits and the revaluation surplus, now amount to £335.6 million, which equals 568p per share.

Looking to the future, I feel that there are some grounds for greater optimism for our industry and we in Taylor Woodrow are certainly well-equipped to pursue any opportunities for the development of our business.

Particular appreciation is also

The Year in brief

	1984	1983	Increase
Turnover	£777m	£696m	11.7%
Profit before tax	£42.5m	£35.9m	18.3%
Earnings per share before extraordinary items	38.1p	33.1p	15.1%
Net dividends per share	15.0p	12.25p	22.4%

upon such support.

Whilst there continues to be a scarcity of major civil engineering projects in the home market, this has been compensated by an encouraging increase in the volume of building work secured. 1984 also saw further advances for our property portfolio, whilst

due to all those who provide the resources to sustain our team; to our clients for the valued business which they continue to entrust to us; to the teams of professional people and the numerous suppliers and subcontractors who so ably assist in the carrying out of our work.

Experience, expertise and teamwork—worldwide



May 22, 1985

SPECIAL REPORT

THE SEAFARING FINNS/1

Boat people who struck it rich



Sea Finland, an exhibition of Finnish shipping and shipbuilding, will be opened today by Kalevi Sorsa, the Finnish Prime Minister, at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich. This Special Report looks at the history of seafaring in Finland from the tall ships to the latest Arctic technology.

Once a month a remarkable group of men and a few women meet for lunch in the Nautical Club at Mariehamn in the Åland Islands, a part of the Finnish archipelago which lies in the mouth of the Gulf of Bothnia, midway between Stockholm and the Finnish mainland. Almost uniformly blue-eyed and of fair complexion, these people are the survivors of the crews of the great steel square-rigged sailing ships of Åland which carried part of the Australian wheat crop to Britain each spring until the Second World War.

Usually about 50 of these "Cape Horners", out of the 200 still living in Finland, attend each of these unique gatherings. As they sit in the dining-room overlooking the harbour, the great modern Baltic ferries, the newest of them many times the size of the old sailing vessels and the last word in technical efficiency, call at modern ferry stations below, each disgorging and gobbling up its quota of trucks and cars through the enormous hole which opens in its bows.

The fact that such a group of men can still meet regularly and in such numbers, many of its members still in their fifties or early sixties, underlines Finland's astonishing development over the last 50 years from a country still largely dependent on the export of sawn timber, on marginal agriculture and on limited industry and on sailing ships and old steamers bought from Western Europe to the highly prosperous modern state of today with one of the world's

higher growth rates and a standard of living surpassed in few countries.

The maritime aspects of Finnish history can be traced back to the Dark Ages. Early traces can be found in the Kalevala, the epic compiled by Elias Lönnrot out of Finnish folk poetry which celebrates its 150th anniversary of publication this year and has long been one of the cornerstones of Finnish culture.

More positive evidence has been provided by modern archaeology. Southern Finland was right on the great trade route which ran from Western Europe through the Baltic to the Russian rivers and by way of them to the Black Sea and the eastern Mediterranean. Along this route, through the Finnish islands, many of whose inhabitants seem to have joined in the trading ventures, came the ships of Vendel and Viking times, small vessels which could be carried by their crews across the portages between the navigable Russian rivers.

In due course they gave way to the much larger cogs (flat-bottomed trading vessels), through which German domi-

Shipbuilding thrives without state money

nance of the middle Baltic was established in the Baltic Crusades. These left a legacy of place names, Kuggholm, Kuggsund, Kuggham - still on the charts today.

During the long centuries in which Finland was an integral part of Sweden the people of the central and eastern parts of the country developed systems of water transport through the complex of lakes and linking rivers which played an important role in the vast export trade in timber, so important to Finland's development.

A Finnish forest product of another kind was vital to sea transport and sea warfare in the rest of Europe, and especially in Britain. This was pine tar, the famous "Stockholm Tar", an essential preservative for the natural fibre rigging of wooden sailing ships, which got its name

because Swedish law required its export through Stockholm although it was manufactured in the hinterland of the Swedish Bothnian ports.

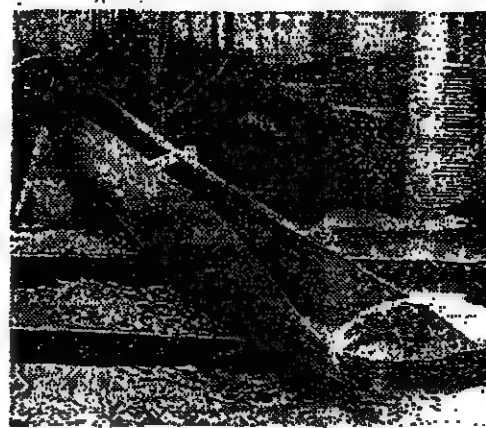
In 1765 the Swedish Diet abolished this restriction and immediately Finnish towns began to build up their own merchant fleets. Within 20 years they were trading with the Far East. After the Russian occupation of Finland in 1809, Finnish vessels comprised the principal part of Russian merchant shipping in Finland, where industrial development came very late, merchant shipping became an important capital generator and channel of contact with the outside world.

During the Crimean War an Anglo-French fleet imposed a degree of blockade on the Finnish coast. Many small vessels were captured and some larger ones destroyed by raiding parties ashore. Many others, caught away from their home ports, were sold - often at wartime boom prices.

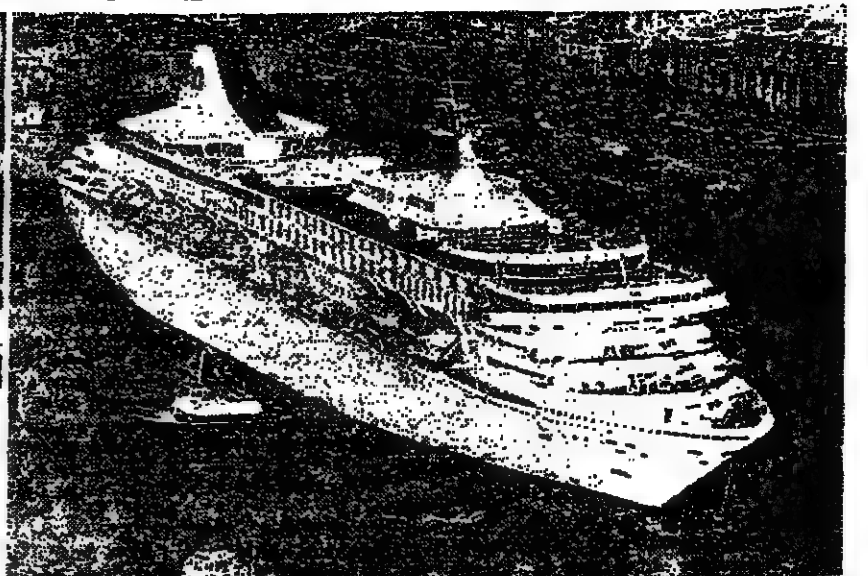
With the coming of peace the Russians relaxed restrictions imposed on international trade and there followed a kind of golden age for Finnish shipping in which wooden sailing vessels, many of them locally built by farmers on their own land, owned by syndicates of local seamen, entered the world's carrying trade very profitably.

However, capital generation was a slow process and it was not until the present century that large-scale continuous investment in steam tramp tonnage took place. The picturesque sailing vessels remained a paying proposition in the peculiar local conditions of Finland and created worldwide interest until the Second World War.

After that war the reparations demanded by the Russians, which were met in full - gave rise to a second industrial revolution and modern Finland was born. Today the Finnish merchant fleet is one of the world's finest, much of it specialized, roll-on-roll-off vessels, refrigerated ships, and vessels designed to carry forest products.



Old and new: An early small boat and the Royal Princess, one of the most expensive liners afloat. Left: The world's oldest diving suit, believed to be 200 years old



Log of a sailing nation

The "Sea Finland" exhibition, which opens to the public tomorrow at the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich, is one of the biggest to have been staged there. Only the exhibition to celebrate the bicentenary of American Independence has been larger - or more expensive. Sea Finland occupies four of the museum's main galleries on the first floor and its design and construction has cost about £375,000.

The scent greeting visitors to the galleries - which has been enjoyed by museum staff during the weeks of preparation - is of "Stockholm tar". For three centuries from the early 1600s Finland was the world's biggest producer of wood tar: most of the tar used by Nelson's navy came from Finland. It was exported to other parts of the world through Stockholm, the capital of what was then Sweden-Finland.

Some craftsmen can still make boats from one trunk

Manufacture of Stockholm tar is explained in the exhibition: the selection of pine trees four years before they are due to be felled; their treatment, to ensure that they make large amounts of pitch; and the dry distillation of tar from split lengths of pine in special kilns. There is a model of a tar boat loaded with three tons of tar barrels shooting rapids.

One of the most intriguing exhibits, which dates from the earliest times, shows the working of a single aspen trunk into a light, strong boat for use on the Finnish lakes. It is a long and complicated process requiring great skill, though there are still craftsmen in south-west Finland able to make such a boat. Another exhibit with beautiful lines is a replica of a twelfth-century boat which, instead of being nailed, was sewn together with spruce roots.

Navigation of the inland lake systems - Finland has 60,000 lakes - has always been an essential part of everyday life. The 60-foot 18-oar rowing-boat in the colon-

SEA FINLAND EXHIBITION

The exhibition will open tomorrow and run until December 31. Admission is included in the museum entry charge of £1 for adults and 50p for children.

Opening hours are, until October 27, Monday to Saturday 10 am-6 pm, Sunday 2 pm-5.30 pm. From October 28, Monday-Friday 10 am-5 pm, Saturday 10 am-5.30 pm, Sunday 2 pm-5 pm. Closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

A leaflet guide to the exhibition costs 20p. A book, *Sea Finland: Finnish seafaring in pictures* compiled by Henry Forsell, will be on sale at £7.95. Disabled visitors will not find easy access to the first-floor galleries.

nade at the museum was one of the church boats collectively owned and used primarily for taking villagers to church. The exhibition traces the development of the lake and sea transport to the present day.

Old and new methods of beating the Finnish winter are illustrated. By the 1870s the volume of trade demanded winter as well as summer transport and a specially reinforced 400 hp steamship, Express, ran a service to Stockholm. It lasted 16 years but sometimes got stuck in the ice. The first icebreaker, the Murta, came into service in 1890 and was soon followed by two ice-reinforced ships which began services first to Hull, and later to other parts of Britain.

Even earlier, as long ago as 1638, a postal route existed across the sea between Sweden and Finland. Much of the route was through the Åland Islands and the mail was carried from island to island by Ålands' peasants. In winter, when the sea was frozen hard, they would use sledges or skis, but if there was open water or slushy ice they had to try to sail or row, often in icy winds or driving snow.

Also on view, in some cases with the treasure that was found in them, are reconstructions from the wrecks which

litter the Baltic. One is the galliot, St Mikael, which sank in 1747 and is shown with gold snuff-boxes, watches, and other luxurious gold artefacts. There are fragments of a 16th-century Dutch merchantman, the German and Dutch pottery it carried having survived almost intact.

In this section, too, is what is believed to be the world's oldest diving-suit. Made of cowhide, it has a pipe for fresh air to be pumped in through the back and another from the top of the helmet to take out waste air. The suit, thought to be about 200 years old, has been lent by the museum of Raabe, the west coast town where it was probably made.

The story of Gustaf Erikson, master mariner, astute businessman, and owner of the last great fleet of sailing ships in the world, is told as part of the history of the Åland Islands' sailing ships. The models of

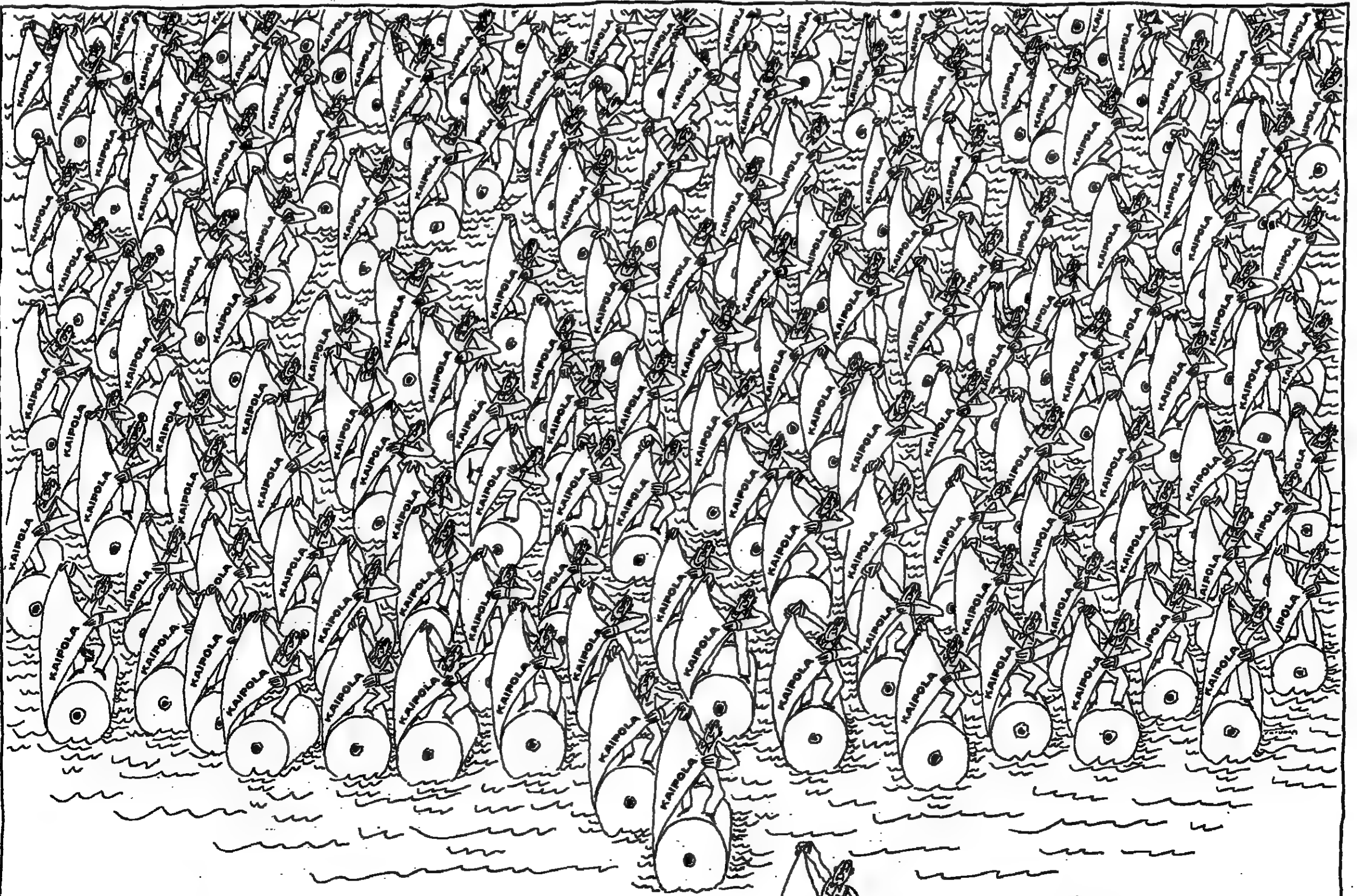
Barques could be seen in Britain up to the 1930s

fine four-masted barques, like the Herzogin Cecilie, are among the most handsome exhibits. Some of the barques were familiar sights in Britain in the 1930s and 1940s, while others sailed distant waters right up to the 1940s and early 1950s.

Also featured are the most common wooden sailing ships to be seen in Finnish waters in the 19th and early 20th centuries, the plump little Baltic steamers. About 30 metres long with a 7-metre beam and a spacious hull, they carried two masts of equal height and a fore and aft rig that could be handled by a crew of three.

The important Finnish forestry and fishing industries and maritime warfare are other exhibition themes. Pictures and models show the Finnish navy's ships and battles, the wars fought in its waters, and the island fortress of Suomenlinna just offshore from Finland's capital, Helsinki.

Kathleen Frenchman



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How the oceans give this land its living



Offshore and Arctic are the two words on which Finland's shipbuilding industry bases its future hopes. So far the Finns have been able to survive in the bruising battle for ship orders while many other West European countries have been forced to all but scrap their shipbuilding industries. Their weapons have been specialization and Soviet trade.

Five-year trade agreements with the Russians, who buy about half of the ships built in Finland, provide continuity and a good base for improving competitiveness in western markets. Forward planning in bilateral trade has been extended to 15 years.

At the moment the prospects are relatively good. Last year the sales outlook was bleak but new orders have improved matters considerably. Hopes of getting two new passenger cruiser orders from Norway are high and would strengthen Finland's position as the leading builder of luxury passenger cruisers of an advanced design.

The pearl of Finnish-built cruisers is the Royal Princess, which was built by Wärtsilä in Helsinki and delivered to the P & O line last autumn.

Despite these successes, it is clear there are few possibilities of increasing shipbuilding capacity. Rationalization, has wiped out 1,000 jobs, and the industry now employs 17,000 people in four major companies - Wärtsilä, Rauma-Repoli and Höllmiller, which are private, and the state-owned Valmet.

Kari Aaraksinen, head of Valmet's shipbuilding division, pointed out in a recent interview that the building of "ordinary" ships has moved to Asia for good, and Europeans will never get it back. This forces Finns as well as others to find new areas of operation.

Finland is one of West Europe's four biggest shipbuilders, together with West Germany, Spain and Denmark. Finnish yards build about 40 ocean-going vessels a year, which amounts to between

300,000 and 350,000 gross tonnes. The figures alone do not give a full picture because Finnish yards build almost exclusively expensive and profitable specialized ships. Right at this moment their order books contain about 50 ocean-going vessels, which include research ships, Arctic multi-purpose vessels, icebreakers, cruise liners, car-passenger ferries, Arctic tankers, roll-on-roll off vessels, dredgers, crane vessels and oil drilling rigs.

Technically speaking, the Finnish shipbuilding industry stands in a comparatively strong position. Rationalization was carried out in the 1970s, and it has provided good results. The mistake of building huge 500,000 tonners was luckily avoided because they would have cost the capital-

Wärtsilä is by far the most successful Finnish shipbuilder, and has been able to stay out of trouble better than local competitors. Icebreakers were for long Wärtsilä's imagemaker, but cruise liners have come to play a more prominent role in the company's order books. It has built more than 30 passenger and cruise ships since the war and claims to be responsible for about one third of the cruise ships built in the world since the beginning of the 1970s.

This year, Wärtsilä's yards have been busy with huge car-passenger ferries. The main competitors in the lucrative but fiercely competitive car ferry traffic between Sweden and Finland, the Silja Line and the Viking Line, have ordered a total of three big car ferries. One of the 35,000-tonne ships, Svea, has already been delivered to serve on the Stockholm-Turku route, which is used by 800,000 passengers a year.

Viking's new 36,400-tonne vessel Mariella, which will be delivered shortly, has cabin space for 2,500 passengers. It will operate between Helsinki and Stockholm, which is becoming increasingly attractive to passengers.

The traffic between Sweden and Finland has long since ceased to be merely travelling. More and more people use the ferries for entertainment and mini-cruises, and shipping specialists say that short two to three day cruises to Stockholm or Helsinki represent the real growth area. The design of the new ships has been adapted accordingly.

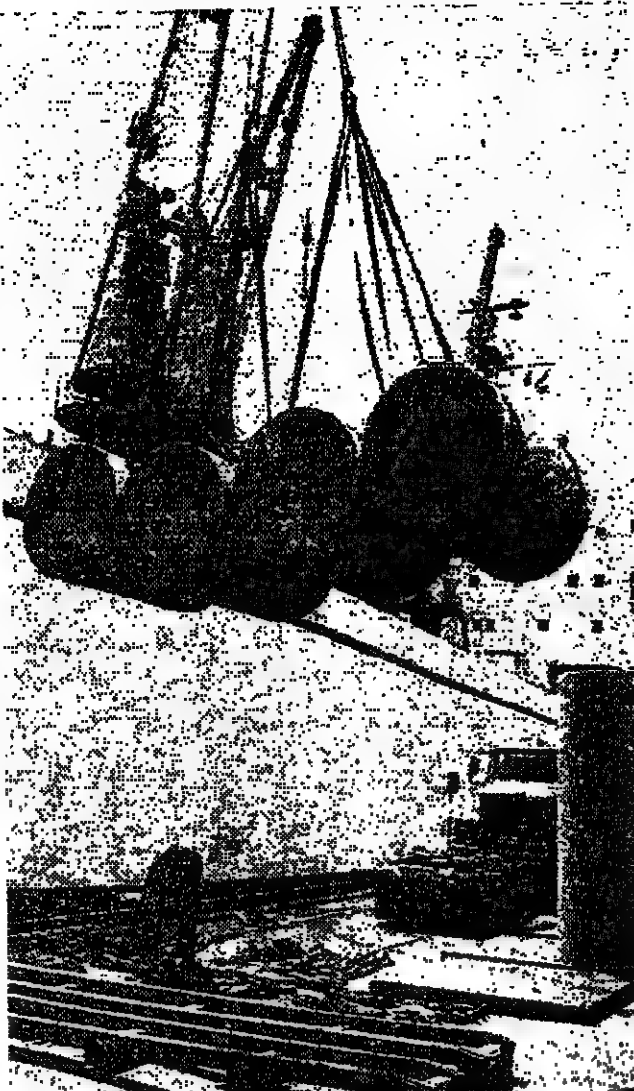
Wärtsilä has its own Arctic research centre, which includes one of the world's largest model test basins. The company has begun to adapt its ice-breaking know-how to offshore drilling, although icebreakers remain in the forefront of the company's future plans.

Valmet, which has always been in the shadow of Wärtsilä, is also moving gradually from Arctic vessels to offshore technology. It has decided to buy part of the necessary technology and has concluded a technical co-operation agreement with London-based Foster and Wheeler Petroleum Development Limited.

Earlier, Valmet bought 40 per cent of Intec Engineering of Houston, Texas, which specializes in submarine pipelines, pipelaying techniques, floating production systems and offshore terminals.

Valmet has developed an advance design for a deep-water monohull pipelayer, which is strengthened against ice to provide longer operational periods in the Arctic. Because fixed oil production platforms are not ideal in all oil and gas fields, especially the marginal fields, the company is also concentrating on floating production systems. It has been able to overcome financial difficulties caused by bad management. The company is also moving into passenger ships and cruise liners and has already won an order for a 21,000 tonne cruise liner for the Åland island based Birka Line.

Olli Kivinen



Action afloat: Paper for British newspapers: top, a launch becomes a grocery in Helsinki; and the Valmet shipyard at nearby Vuosaari



The forests that are exported to Britain

Principal UK Exports to Finland			Principal UK Imports from Finland		
	£m	1983 1984		£m	1983 1984
Specialized machinery	44.9	45.4	Paper, paperboard & articles of paper pulp, of paper & paperboard	448.2	561.5
Transport equipment, nes	28.4	25.8	Cork and wood	132.6	139.8
Textile yarn, fabrics, etc.	27.2	28.2	Pulp and waste paper	53.7	79.6
Coal, coke and briquettes	27.8	3.6	Cork and wood manufactures (excl. furniture)	45.7	50.8
Crude fertilizers & crude minerals (excl. coal, petroleum & precious stones)	26.5	31.2	Non-ferrous metals	42.1	58.3
General industrial machinery & equipment, nes	25.9	25.4	Apparel and clothing accessories	32.8	32.3
Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials	23.7	146.6	Iron and steel	31.1	28.7
Road vehicles	23.1	19.8	Total, including others	996.0	1,248.6
Office machines & automatic data processing equipment	23.8	39.2			
Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances, nes	20.3	29.8			
Total, including others	539.7	684.5			

Finland's domestic market has declined from 23 per cent in the 1950s to less than seven per cent today. Paper and pulp exports from Finland to Britain last year were up in value by 25 per cent to £561 million, representing 45 per cent of all Finnish exports to this country.

Machinery and transport equipment exports amounted to a further £107 million, boosted last year by the completion of the Royal Princess cruise liner.

Finland's chief imports from Britain are machinery and transport equipment, manufactured goods, particularly textiles, oil and petroleum products and chemicals. Major innovative deals have been concluded in recent years to try to close the trade gap, but there are few now on the horizon.

The biggest was the controversial offset agreement signed in 1977 to supply Finland with 50 British Aerospace Hawk trainer aircraft.

The £102 million purchase price was to be offset by Bae and Rolls-Royce, the engine-maker, finding business for an equivalent amount around the world. The task was completed within three years and involved a wide range of contracts, from the sale of Finnish vodka to an oil rig.

However, orders such as the Hawk are becoming increasingly rare - and British representation at Finnish trade fairs and exhibitions is lessening. Mr Keino adds: "Much of the information we have in Finland about industrial Britain is superficial and often concentrated on the decline of the old smokestack industries. Too little information is given about the development of new technology in Britain."

"A further point that seems to hamper British exports to Finland is that comparatively few British businessmen seem to take the trouble and expense to travel to Finland and visit potential customers. All too often, in place of a personal call, a vaguely worded letter is sent asking for possible agents. This is hardly adequate in today's conditions of severe competition."

Britain has two distinct advantages over other would-be exporters to Finland: a large store of goodwill towards the British, and English, which is the first foreign language in Finland.

In shipping, Finland has developed a unique arrangement for the shipment of the huge forest products exports - the Transnennica Corporation. Established 10 years ago by the four big paper, board, pulp and converting associations, which together have 27 member companies, Transnennica is the largest shipper of forest products in the world. Last year it handled five million tonnes of goods. About 80 per cent of the cargoes goes to Europe, the remainder delivered to about 160 non-European ports. In Europe, Britain is the principal destination.

Edward Townsend

Industrial Correspondent

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The UK's overall share has declined

Jorma Keino, chairman of the Finnish-British Trade Association and also of Finnmap, the association of paper mills, says: "Though it is perhaps natural that Finland with its vast exports of forest industry products to the large British market should have a trade surplus, it is a disappointment to those of us who try to promote Anglo-Finnish trade that Britain's share of the small but affluent Finnish market has steadily declined."

According to British government figures, imports from Finland were worth £1,248 million last year, a rise of over a quarter on 1983. Exports to Finland, however, were just £684 million, and though this represented a 27 per cent increase on the 1983 figure, the surplus of £564 million was a rise of more than £100 million on the previous year.

Britain's overall share of the

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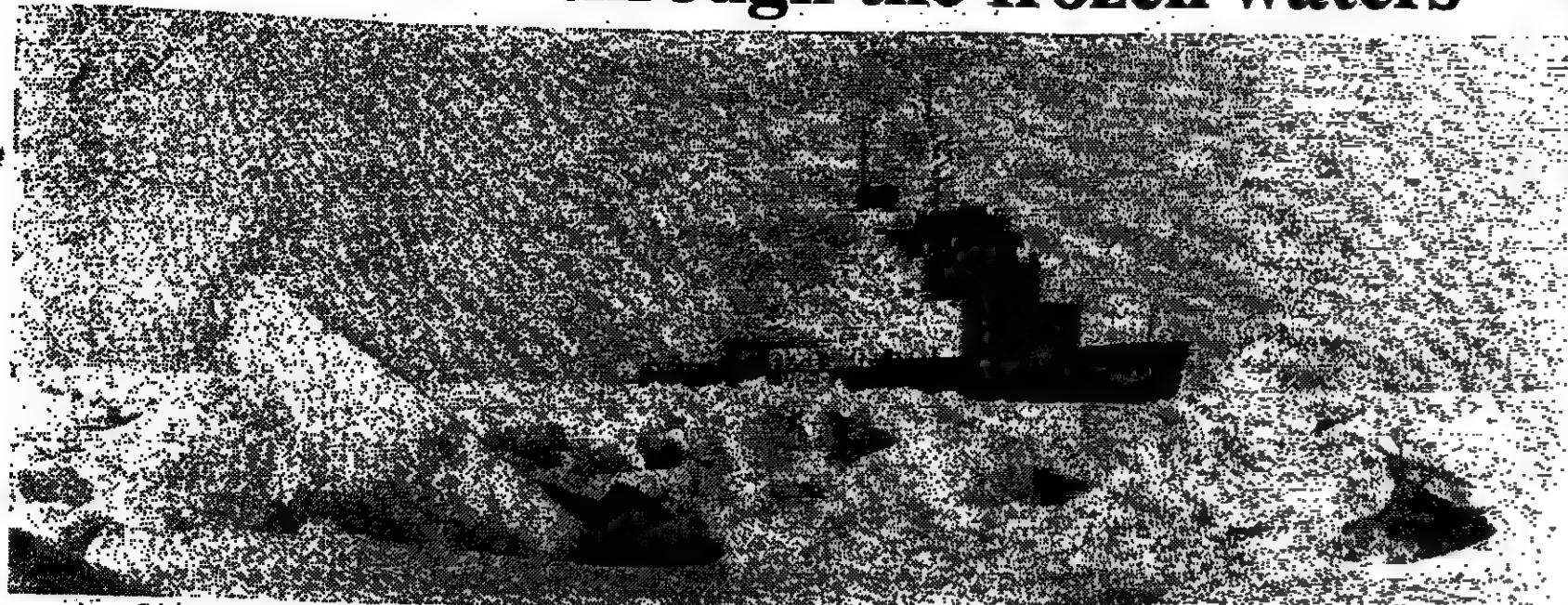
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(SPECIAL REPORT)

THE SEAFARING FINNS/3

Pathfinders through the frozen waters



Cutting edge: Forging through seemingly impenetrable ice is the 7,900-ton Urho, a feature of the Finnish exhibition at Greenwich



Not everyone wants to buy an icebreaker. But if you do, you will find that the Finns build the best in the world. Designing and constructing icebreakers and special vessels for use in Arctic waters has become a Finnish speciality. More than 60 per cent of all icebreakers afloat in the world today have been designed and built in Finland.

In order to maintain year-round navigation in the Baltic and the northernmost parts of the Gulf of Bothnia the Finnish and Swedish governments decided during the late 1960s to build a new generation of icebreakers which could cope with the worst expected conditions - ice up to one metre thick.

This decision has enabled the Finnish yards to become some of the most experienced in the world in building ice vessels of all kinds and in Arctic engineering technology in general.

The 7,900-ton Urho, now visiting the Thames, was the first of the new class built by Wärtsilä and was delivered in 1975. Today the yard has delivered 54 icebreakers of various kinds and has another four on order.

The latest contract is for two shallow-draft nuclear-powered vessels of 52,000 horsepower each which are being built for the Soviet Union, Finland's best icebreaker customer, at a cost of £285m.

These vessels have more than twice the power of the Urho but

the same shallow draft of approximately 8 metres, which is important for their operations close to the Siberian river system of the Soviet Arctic.

Other icebreakers with even shallower draft are designed for use in the rivers themselves which are the only means of transporting goods and equipment for the massive Soviet mineral exploration programmes now under way.

Winter of 1983 trapped 90 Soviet ships

The latest type of icebreaker being built by Wärtsilä for the Finnish Board of Navigation is the Karhu II class. The first one will be delivered next year and represents a new generation of icebreakers with a special hull form designed after months of testing with models in the Wärtsilä Arctic research centre.

Two years ago the company completed its new "ice testing" tank, which is now the most sophisticated and the largest in the world.

The actual hull lines under the water are a closely guarded secret at Wärtsilä, which rarely, if ever, reveals any accurate drawings of its icebreakers below the water line. Eero Mäkinen, who was in charge of Wärtsilä's Arctic design and marketing division, is one of the world's leading experts in icebreaking technology. He now heads Wärtsilä's subsidiary company in Vancouver, Canada.

He explains the significance of 20 years' research to produce correct hull design for the most efficient way of breaking ice. "Usually a ship cracks the ice with a downward movement of the bows, using her own headway and weight after first rising up over the ice. This has proved to be the most efficient way of forcing a passage through ice of all kinds."

The secret is to design a ship with the most satisfactory downward-bearing hull, which can achieve maximum breaking efficiency when the bows rear up over the ice.

Another problem, which has to be overcome for both icebreakers and cargo ships with special ice-breaking capacity is friction between the hull sides and the broken ice floes.

Wärtsilä has developed a unique patent air bubbling system known as WABS which can lower friction resistance from ice by between 20 and 60 per cent. Air is blown into the water from a line of holes in the ship's bilges and the bubbles rise along the sides of the vessel and form a lubricating layer between the ship's side and the broken ice.

A ship becomes icebound when friction overcomes forward - or reverse - inertia, as was clearly demonstrated during the severe winter of 1983-84. This was one of the worst recorded for more than 100 years. Some 90 Soviet merchant ships became trapped in the Arctic.

The seas between the Kolyma river and the Bering Strait started to freeze much earlier

than usual, trapping the ships, and even icebreakers. The polar ice began forming and moving south at a speed of more than three knots an hour, forming shoreline ridges of ice 10 metres high.

It took a month to rescue the trapped ships, 30 of which were damaged, some quite badly. But only one vessel, a dry cargo ship, sank after being crushed by the ice. Among the ships to get through were a dozen 17,000-ton Arctic tankers built by Rauma-Repola, another Finnish company specializing in building ice-strengthened cargo vessels of various types.

Search for minerals led to new techniques

Rauma-Repola has also built some of the only oil drilling ships for use in the Arctic offshore waters north of Siberia, where the ice is often more than three metres thick but may have ridges on the surface up to the 15 metres high.

If the sea ice is relatively free of ridges, special air cushion vehicles (ACVs) can be used to ferry cargoes to or from the shore if the icebreaker cannot get close enough because of shallow water or ice that is too thick. Wärtsilä is now building 10 ACVs for use in the Soviet Arctic.

Another Helsinki yard, operated by Valmet, the big state-owned engineering conglomerate, has just delivered the Anatoli Kolesnichenko SA-15

Super Arctic multi-purpose cargo vessel to the Soviet Union.

Valmet, which was one of the last yards in the world to build sailing merchant schooners regularly after the last war, has designed and built several classes of ice-strengthened cargo ships. This latest class can cut through solid ice one metre thick at a steady one-to-two knots and operate in temperatures down to minus 50deg C.

Many modifications have been incorporated in this latest ship following the disasters of the 1983-84 winter. The 14,000-ton vessel now has additional ice protection and heated ballast tanks.

It is the search for minerals, not only in Soviet Siberian Arctic regions but in Canada and Alaska as well, which has led to so much development of polar technology by the Finns. Professor Paull Juntanen, who is director of the structural engineering department of Finland's Technical Research Centre, the VTT, is one of the leading experts in polar engineering.

Professor Juntanen believes that Finland's wealth of specialized technology in Arctic engineering, which is not limited to designing and building ships, will play a major role in finding new areas for commercial exploitation.

There is more than one way to break the ice - and the Finns, it might be said, are at the leading edge of a very specialized technology.

Michael Frenchman

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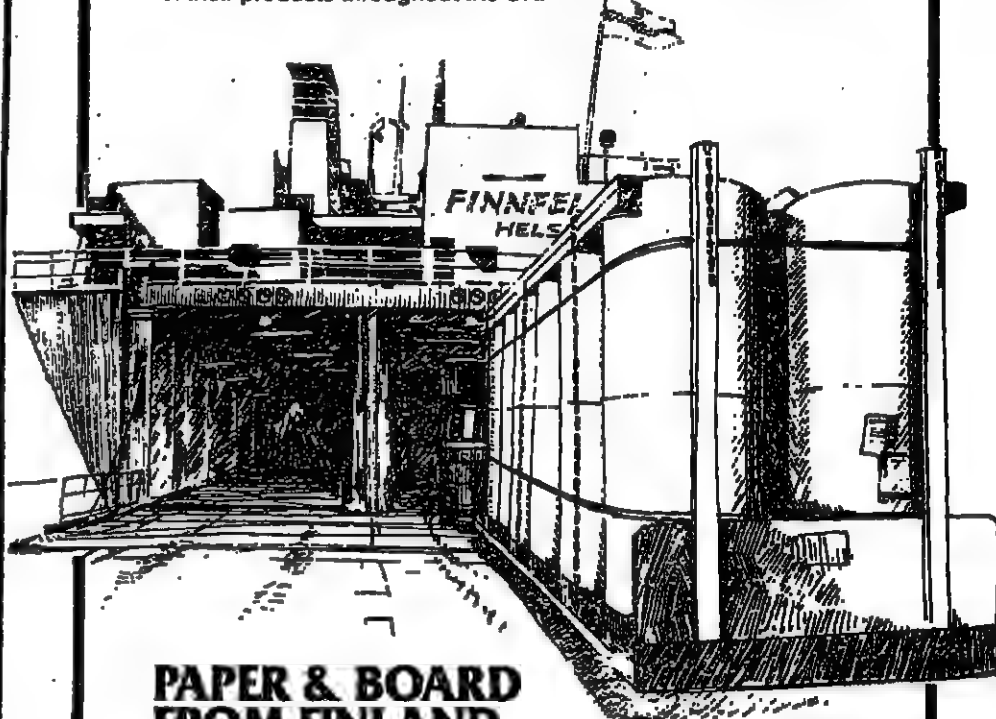
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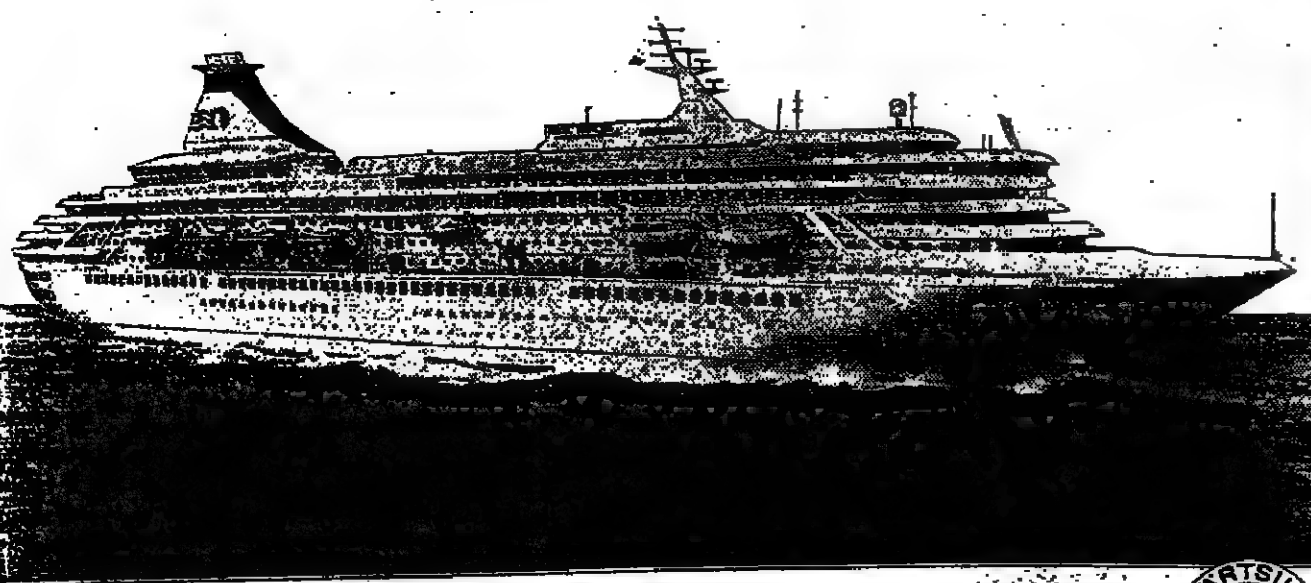
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BOXING: McGUIGAN SETS OUT ON THE ROAD OF WHICH HOLMES NEARS THE END

Hungry fighter who brought about a united Ireland

By Srikumar Sen, Boxing Correspondent

The Irish are mad about the boy, regardless of which side of the aisle they sit or which side of the border they stand. You have only to wait a few minutes outside Barry McGuigan's gym in Castle Street, Belfast, and catch an Irish eye of blue, and you will find out why the little fighter from Clones is a folk hero.

Take Agnes, for instance. She is 80. Never missed a McGuigan fight. She sees you standing outside the gym and she comes up to you and says: "Tell Barry my son is out of hospital and we'll be going to London for the big fight." She pulls out two tickets from her bag and slides them back between her purse and pension book: £100 each, they are.

The Irish just love a fighter, in every sense of the word. Outside the gym they will tell you about the Kellys and Gilroy and Cladwell and Monaghan and McGuigan. And on June 8 10,000 Irishmen will cross the water to shout with one voice for McGuigan against Eusebio Pedrosa, of Panama, in their World Boxing Association featherweight title contest.

So taken are they with the British and European featherweight champion that McGuigan has already become odds on to lift the world title at Loftus Road, the Queen's Park Rangers football ground, McGuigan's manager, B. J. Eastwood, one of Ireland's leading bookmakers, says: "McGuigan has won the handicaps and now he is going to the Derby. We have not yet seen the best of McGuigan."

If the punters have overlooked the fact that the "other horse", who is odds on in New York, has not only won the Derby but also 18 other group one events, McGuigan has not. He knows the champion too well; even better, perhaps, than the champion knows himself because he has watched Pedrosa on the video three times a day, every day, for the last three weeks.

"I will not be watching him any more unless I have to," McGuigan says. "Because every time I see him he gets better. He is a terrific body-puncher and has a whipping uppercut that can take your head off and is extremely good at in-fighting."

Pedrosa, who is 5ft 10in and built like a welterweight, knows every in-fighting trick that is not in the book. "He knows the dirt of the day," as they say in the pubs and clubs of Belfast. That is why Eastwood has brought in two sparring partners, Jose Marmolejo, coached by Pedrosa's trainer, and Equil Musquera to show the Irish challenger a few Panama City moves.

The 24-year-old McGuigan, who as a schoolboy at St Patrick's High School in Clones, was the champion at hardy knuckles (conkers with knuckles), is learning fast. "I have sparred with Latinos in the past and I thought I knew about them," he says. "But these two are showing me new things every day. They do the most unusual things like leading with an uppercut straight up the middle. They know all the dirty tricks like how to get your head on top of theirs inside. I'm learning also how to relax and look busy at the same time."

Eastwood admits that McGuigan's showing against



Reaching for a record: Larry Holmes (right) during his bout against Carl Williams

Holmes takes pains to prevail again

Reno, Nevada (Reuters) - Larry Holmes, bleeding from the mouth and with his left eye closed, took another painful step towards boxing history on Monday night. Holmes' latest victim was Carl "the Truth" Williams and the points verdict was unanimous.

But the International Boxing Federation (IBF) champion admitted after his 48th heavyweight victory: "The fight was not easier, they're harder. The fighters are not older, they're younger."

Holmes said he would be in July in an attempt to equal Rocky Marciano's record of 49 triumphs. If victorious he will go for the outright record in October.

Holmes suffered unexpected punishment on his way to a reported \$2.5 million. Williams received \$175,000. The winning margin was 147-139 on two of the

three American judges' scorecards, but only one point, 144-143, on the other card.

In the early stages Holmes seemed to be waiting to land his strong right hand for a knockout. He drew first blood, opening up a cut over Williams' left eye in the third round, but the challenger's corner repaired the damage several times during the contest.

Holmes' lacklustre performance convinced some observers that he would have difficulty breaking Marciano's record.

"Williams reminds me of me in my youth," Holmes said. "He has a good jab. Apparently he's watched films of me and picked up some things." Eddie Futch, Holmes' manager for 12 bouts, said his man "took more punishment than in any fight since I've been with him."

Ali's China shuffle

Peking (AP) - The man who was once described as the best-known person on earth has proved that even in the relative sporting wilderness of China, they have heard of The Greatest. He was the old days for Muhammad Ali - a big crowd, a playful sparring, a little shuffle and a lot of talking as he toured China recently on a 10-day visit at the invitation of the government.

Not that Ali is a stranger to the country where they have had nearly as many revolutions as Ali has had comebacks. In 1979, when boxing was actually banned as too dangerous, Ali's visit caused so much interest that it helped revive the sport there - to such an extent

that China is hoping to enter boxers in future Olympic games.

One of them might well be Wang Wei, a 20-year-old lightweight. To rouse approval from 300 students at Peking Sports Institute, Ali took off his coat and tie, and climbed into makeshift ring to spar with the far from heavyweight Chinese.

All swang his right in circles for upwards that were never meant to land and failed at a knockdown. He was not able to float like a butterfly any more, but the crowd loved it.

"Chinese boxers had great potential," Ali said. "They're not big, but they can take a punch and they are determined and courageous."

Drugs create climate of desperation

Baseball chief sets out to restore some broken images

American sports have an image problem. It seemed in part from the Tulane University basketball "beats shooting" scandal, in which players allegedly tipped reports of the satisfaction and profit of gambling in return for supplies of cocaine. It became known through leaks from a Federal investigation into a cocaine trafficking ring in Pittsburgh which reportedly involved up to a dozen top league baseball players. And the whole affair has been fuelled into a wildfire by the revelations of Steve Corbin, who plays American Football for Tampa Bay Buccaneers. He said that he was given 95 per cent of National Football League players who have tried anabolic steroids. "You've got to get on drugs if you want to survive," he said.

Falling heroes

That is the image problem. From being heroin addicts, the athletes are suddenly being perceived as a coke-smoking, dope-pushing, steroid-popping zombie, who would sell grandmothers and the furniture for a Porsche convertible and a spot on a television beer commercial.

As a result, it is being openly recognized at last that the "must win" pressures of American sport is pushing people into the realm of the illegal, abnormal or hallucinatory to achieve the desired result. Someone has decided to do something about it. The Yankees have a history of tainting their players.

Babe Ruth, arguably the greatest player in the history of baseball, also had the distinction of being the first Yankee to be a policeman. Mickey Mantle was another, when management feared that his room-mate, Billy Martin (now the Yankee manager) was leading him astray. Mantle, so far from resisting his shadow, actually went out of his way to be co-operative, tapping his detective on the shoulder at one occasion and arranging a time to meet at a restaurant.

Shoeboxes of money

While much of the latest "drug-war" focuses on the problem of cocaine, the problem is prevalent in every sport from the professional league to high school. College sport, a valuable breeding ground for multi-million dollar professional football and basketball players, is particularly vulnerable. Dons and Deans routinely regret that shoeboxes of tax-free money should be heaped on college stars for their academic services, yet that same player can leave the university four years later with the reading skill of a 13 year-old. Greedy alumni, TV dollars, insecure coaches, all contribute to the climate of desperation in which drugs are increasingly an essential part of winning.

As a competitor for the best-built Mr Pittsburgh said: "You enter a competition in body-building without using steroids and you're like sending your girlfriend into the Miss America pageant without make-up or eye shadow."

IN BRIEF

Out-of-form Durie is bolstered by sponsors

Jo Durie, the British tennis No.1 whose year's sponsorship of £40,000 British Airways has ended, was given financial support by Pilkington Glass. Miss Durie and her coach, Alan Jones, are already employed by the company to run coaching clinics and the new one-year agreement calls for a series of personal appearances.

Miss Durie, whose form has slumped dramatically over the last year, said: "I hope this sponsorship will help me regain my form and my world top five ranking."

HOCKEY: England face strong opposition from Australia and Pakistan in pool B of the junior world cup tournament, for players under 21, at Vancouver, from August 12 to 25. West Germany's chief rivals in pool A are India and the Netherlands.

SWIMMING: Beverley Reed, the 100 metres backstroke record holder, has been forced to withdraw from the European Championship trials at Leeds this weekend. The 21-year-old City of Glasgow competitor has been laid off by a virus.

RUGBY LEAGUE: Great Britain are to make separate tours of Australia and New Zealand between 1988 and 1994 it has been decided at an international board meeting in Paris. Papua New Guinea will tour Europe in 1987 for the first time.

RUGBY UNION: Paul Collins is the only forward to retain his place in a reshaped Ireland side who play in a Japanese selection XV in the second match of their tour in Sendai today (Reuters reported). Ireland's panel of international referees, the Football Association announced yesterday. He replaces David Richardson who, at 48, has retired. Hill, an accountant from Kettering, has served as a League referee since 1977 and two years ago refereed the FA Trophy final.

TABLE TENNIS: Chinese sportsmen will compete in a professional event in South Korea for the first time when the inaugural Grand Prix finals are held in Seoul from May 28 to June 2.

FOOTBALL: Brian Hill, aged 38, has been appointed to the English panel of international referees, the Football Association announced yesterday. He replaces David Richardson who, at 48, has retired. Hill, an accountant from Kettering, has served as a League referee since 1977 and two years ago refereed the FA Trophy final.

Scotland's annual indoor six-day tournament is to receive £300,000 worth of sponsorship over the next three years. The sponsors are Tennent Caledonian Breweries and it was revealed that the event, staged in Falkirk and Edinburgh in the past two years, will be switched to the New Scottish Exhibition Centre in Glasgow, which can seat up to 8,000 fans. The competition will feature the 10 Scottish Premier League sides.

McGowan, newly relegated to the Scottish first division, have appointed a former player, Alan McGowan, as their new manager. He takes over from Willie McLean, who told the directors following the last game of the season that he did not wish to renew his contract. It is McGowan's first managerial appointment.

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One of our clients is moving their head office out of central London to a beautiful modern office block in the Kew Bridge area. As a result, they are looking for secretaries with excellent skills (100/60) to work at senior management level. The 3 positions currently available are in the areas of sales and marketing. An excellent telephone manner and superb presentation will be essential to cope with the volume of telephone work and to maintain the "Company Image" and lively and vibrant personalities will fit in well with the existing staff.

For initial interviews or a preliminary discussion please telephone any of the following numbers:
01-637 3096-01-637 9801-01-636 9891

or alternatively send your C.V. to:
MR P. SAUNDERS
Hunter Turner Associates Ltd.,
2nd Floor, Edinburgh House,
40 Great Portland Street,
London, W1

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

to the Chief Probation Officer £9,255-£10,290 p.a.

The Middlesex Area Probation Service is looking for a Secretary with at least three years' experience at a senior level to provide administrative and clerical support to the Chief Probation Officer.

Good communication skills, initiative, team and decision are essential, as well as fast and accurate typing. Successful candidates will be interviewed on an open and competitive basis. Successful candidates will be offered a 26 days leave, contributory pension scheme, means tested loan after six months' service. Further information and application forms available from: Middlesex Area Probation Service, 1-4 King Street (4th Floor), Dorset Court, London WC2E 8BN Tel: 01-499 1788. Completed applications should be returned by Friday, 7th June 1985.

MIDDLESEX AREA PROBATION SERVICE

Lucrative Temporary Work at Thames
Lucrative means profitable and that means achieving a high return for your work experience and skills. For instance, our W.P. operators are earning in excess of £10,000 per annum and we give them holiday pay - as a bonus not as an excuse to pay them lower rates. Our assignments are in Central London, in blue chip companies who know how to maximise your full potential - and we reward you for it. So whether you can use a Word Processor, have shorthand, audio, copy or administration skills and at least one year's office experience, we would like to hear from you. Call Jackie Coleman 01-497 6914.

Recruitment Consultants - a professional service with a personal touch

Programs Admin/PA £10,500

A small, high-flying computer software house requires Admin/PA to MD. You will be involved in a wide range of tasks, from client liaison to management accounting and supervision of sales, insurance etc. A mature, professional approach is essential. Additionally you should be interested in information technology and have some experience of small business administration. Excellent skills (90/35) and good educational background are required. Age 25-40. Please telephone 01-493 5797.

Gordon Yates Ltd.,
35 Old Bond Street,
London W1
(Recruitment Consultants)

WALLY DUNN PRODUCTIONS LTD REQUIRE AN EXPERIENCED PERSONAL ASSISTANT PRIVATE SECRETARY

To work for their Vice-President and Managing Director in their challenging marketing and consumer products division.

Applicant (aged 25 plus) must be able to perform under pressure and have first class secretarial skills (shorthand essential). Excellent career and stimulating atmosphere for the right person. Attractive salary.
Please apply in writing, with CV to:
Mrs Gillian Dwight
Wally Dunn Productions Ltd
31-32 Soho Square
London W1P 6AP

Audio Secretary/Administrator

Central London c. £9,000

Our client, a major consumer products company, is seeking a bright enthusiastic Audio Secretary/Administrator to join its busy international Personnel Department.

As part of a small team, you will provide full secretarial support in the area of compensation and benefits. Your first-class typing skills should be backed by organisational flair, numeracy, flexibility - and, above all, commitment. Previous secretarial and administrative experience is essential.

In return, you can expect a salary of around £9,000 which will be supported by an excellent range of large-company benefits.

If you're interested in developing your career in this area, write with full cv to the address below, quoting ref: S3189/T on the envelope. Your application will be forwarded to our client unopened unless marked for the attention of our Security Manager with a note of companies to which it should not be sent.

PA PA Advertising

Hyde Park House, 60a Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7LE.
Tel: 01-235 6060 Telex: 27874

Secretary to the European Manager

c. £10,250

Reuters, the world's leading supplier of news and business information services, has a vacancy for an experienced secretary keen to join a fast expanding Company.

This demanding role requires a well-organised, diplomatic person with a calm, confident manner. Experience of working at senior management level, ideally in a large organisation, is essential. The work involves the full range of secretarial duties including detailed travel arrangements, progress chasing, responses to queries and the ability to work under

pressure and on own initiative. Minimum age 25. Speeds of 100/60wpm.

Please send your detailed CV to 1 following address or telephone 01-353 7329 to request an application form.

Mrs C. Chanley,
Recruitment Officer,
Reuters Ltd.,
85 Fleet St.,
London EC4P 4AJ.

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£18,000-£20,000 neg

Business oriented executive assistant required for Chairman of major British owned public group based in London. New opportunities are his main concern and his assistant needs a well disciplined and analytical approach to all aspects of the business. A legal/accounting knowledge would be appreciated to enable the assistant to participate fully in the financial research. The ideal candidate will be male and have received a formal education to degree level and is suitably be currently earning less than £14,000. An excellent salary package is offered including adjacent flat and car.

Call Anne Richards on 01-377 8600 in the City or Mr Turner on 01-439 7001 in the West End.
Secretaries Plus the secretarial consultants

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Applications are invited from Medical Secretaries with Audio and Shorthand along with proven organisational skills who are available to commence on or before this date. Previous Gynaecological experience is preferable but not essential. As this position involves considerable patient contact a pleasant, friendly and helpful personality is required.

The Hospital offers a generous salary and an excellent benefit package.
For an applications form please write to the Personnel Dept. or telephone on 586 5959 extension 2710/2706.

Humana Hospital Wellington

SECRETARY/PA & PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION

£10,500 pa NW6

The Managing Director and Financial Controller of a fast-growing marketing company requires a highly qualified Secretary/PA.

The ideal applicant will be no less than 27 years of age and as well as having first-class shorthand, audio and typing skills, will have the confidence, initiative and commitment to undertake a busy and demanding job. The position also encompasses full responsibility for personnel (40 employees) and office management in which proven experience is required.

In addition to normal benefits, a company profit sharing scheme applies after one year's service. Please send CV in confidence to Managing Director, William Levene Ltd, 36/38 Willesden Lane, London, NW6 7ST.

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Administrator to deal with software contracts for Swedish or Italian clients in multinational computer company, liaising with Europe and the USA. Good typing, telephone manner and appearance. Marketing/secretarial experience helpful but training will be given. Age 24+. Salary £13,000 - a salary opportunity for this and other language vacancies. Please ring LANGUAGES SECRETARIAL CONSULTANTS, 01-734 9000.

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For lively secretary to consumer division of West End retail company. Excellent salary and benefits. Good prospects for the right person. Good personality with previous retail experience. Apply to Elaine Clarke, Consumer Division, London W1. 01-637 2281

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Crone Corkill 434 4512
99 Regent St, W1

INTERNATIONAL OIL SERVICE COMPANY

is looking for a sales person to run small London office and travel within Europe canvassing future clients and talking to existing clients. Travelling approx. 1/3 of the year. Person should be young and dynamic. Speak and write French and preferably have chemical background or crude oil experience. This is a unique opportunity for someone to create a whole new department.

Please reply Box TT 80, The Times, 8 rue Halévy, 75441 PARIS CEDEX 09, France.

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Please send a full CV (in confidence, of course) to:
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For director of wholesale food company, fluent french essential some secretarial experience £8,000 neg. Please ring 01-703 7031

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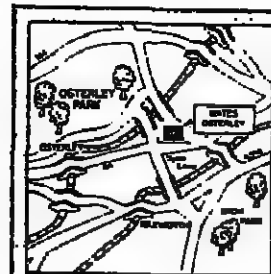
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99 year Lease. £725,000.
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50% Reserved

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The design retains some of the truly magnificent original rooms and their very high standard of modern amenity throughout including passenger lift, resident caretaker, top quality kitchens, 10 bathrooms, all new plumbing and electricity, etc.

Plats and Duplex Apartments (including a sensational penthouse) each 2/4 bedrooms, 2 reception, 2/4 bathrooms, from £250,000 to £500,000. Studio Flat @ £50,000.

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1 bedroom apartments from £59,250.

Ideally suited for the City and West End, Waterloo Gardens stand in an elegant square in one of the most sought after areas of London. Its facade is a skilful blend of modern and early Victorian style architecture designed to tone beautifully with the charm of this gracious square, while at the rear there is a magnificent Piazza.

These exclusive, highly specified apartments include: □ Fully fitted and equipped kitchens. □ Fully fitted carpets throughout. □ Fitted wardrobes. □ Full house heating. □ Entry phone. □ Full length sliding doors to private balconies. □ Portage and high speed lifts. Talk to Rod Smith on (01) 607 9793 (Thurs/Mon) 01-503248 (Tues/Wed).

WIMPEY WELCOME HOME

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And be home before the crowd - 15 minutes to City. Invest in London's top growth area. Outstanding new homes in the Dutch style. Landscaped water gardens. Slipway to Thames. Schools, transport, ASDA only minutes away.

STUDIOS, ONE & TWO BED APARTMENTS: £35,000 - £81,000
Only 2 houses remaining £73,000 (Subject to Contract)

Show complex OPEN 10am - 7pm Weekdays
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VIEW TODAY LONDON YARD
Manchester Road, Isle of Dogs, E14.
01-967 4473

Kensington Court, W8

Exceptionally smart 1st floor flat of character with ground view, 2 bedrooms, 2 double beds, bath, kitchen, 1 living room, 1 study, 1 terrace, 1 garden, 1 parking space. £125,000.

01-730 9854

BUCKINGHAM COURT W11

Newly refurbished 2nd floor flat quietly situated at the rear of this popular crescent block close to Notting Hill. 2 bedrooms, 2 double beds, bath, kitchen, 1 living room, 1 study, 1 terrace, 1 garden, 1 parking space. £125,000.

01-727 9811

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CLAYDON GARDENS, SW3

Superb and bright 2nd floor flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 double beds, bath, kitchen, 1 living room, 1 study, 1 terrace, 1 garden, 1 parking space. £125,000.

01-589 6616

COVENT GARDEN

1 bedroom flat for sale in a lovely Victorian building in a new location in the heart of Covent Garden. 125 year lease from £22,900.

01-836 0227

Caithness Road W14

Close Brook Green, light and spacious 1st & 2nd floor flats, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, 1 study, 1 terrace, 1 garden, 1 parking space. £125,000.

01-603 0281

PARSONS GREEN

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01-381 6427

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01-943 4107

ST PAULS COURT, W11

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01-589 6616

New homes with sun appeal

The growing appeal of holiday-home ownership in southern Tenerife is based on four factors: consistent sunshine, low land values, the proximity of the new airport and cheap air tickets.

The property boom is so recent that there are very few high-rise apartment blocks. Present development is planned mostly in traditional style with clusters of one-storey and two-storey villas and apartments built round swimming pools and gardens intersected with walkways overhanging with flowers.

Chayofita is typical of a medium-sized, self-contained development. The one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments, all with ground-floor or first-floor balconies, have access to two private pools with a heated pool due for completion next month.

Chayofita has 260 units completed and sold out of an eventual 350, and the British agents, Richard Martin Sales, are selling off-plan apartments due for completion during this summer.

One-bedroom homes range between £16,500 and £19,000 depending on size and position, while the two-bedroom/two-bathroom duplexes are about £29,000.

Last July Richard Martin Sales launched a quarter-share scheme at Chayofita enabling each of four owners to occupy one apartment for three months a year on a revolving basis.

Director Sally Gow says: "The quarter-share costs £6,500 for a one-bedroom apartment and £9,500 for the two-bedroom unit, and purchasing procedures are exactly the same as for whole-ownership, with all four names appearing on the escritura.

"We find the scheme has wide appeal. Not everyone wants all-year-round commitment to a holiday home."

Near Chayofita, the new marina development of Amarilla Bay is under construction, with the first 77 waterside apartments of an eventual 350 being ready for occupation in a year's time.

Of these, 56 are still for sale at prices ranging from £17,800 for a studio, £27,750 for a one-bedroom apartment and £35,000 for a two-bedroom/two-bathroom apartment. Work on the marina is due to start next month and will run concurrently with the holiday homes.

Playas de las Americas is the tourist hub of southern Tenerife but the Oasis apartment complex, now being developed by Tajofir S L, set above the town and overlooking the Atlantic, is sufficiently far from the centre to retain its tranquillity.

Phase one is sold out. Phase two, which will be ready by December, has 30 apartments available ranging from £23,800 for a one-bedroom unit and from £36,000 for those with two bedrooms.

Details: Sally Gow, Richard Martin Sales, St Martin's House, Bull Ring, Birmingham B5 5DT. Tel: 021-643 7025.

Diana Wildman

Building up to retirement

Many British buyers with long-term retirement plans look to Los Gigantes in the south-west of Tenerife, where a number of more expensive developments are being built, writes Diana Wildman.

Two that stand out are Aer Lingus's Samsol scheme and Wimpey's Las Rosas complex. The former consists of 55 apartments being built in five phases.

Phase one is sold out, phase two, due for a January handover, has seven units left out of 14, at prices from £29,750 to £33,500 for a one-bedroom apartment, dependent on position and size, and £47,000 for the two-bedroom/two-bathroom duplex.

These spacious one-storey and two-storey apartments have the unusual advantage of both a dining room and sitting room intersected by the kitchen and each opening out on to a private terrace.

Samsol is built on a promontory so there are dramatic cliff and sea views from both sides of the properties. The heated swimming pool is nearly complete and there are adjacent tennis courts.

"Long-term plans for our 40-acre site include a hotel and commercial centre as well as more apartments, but Samsol itself will be complete within a year," says Denis Rafter, managing director of Aer Lingus España.

Mr Rafter is also chairman of Wimpey Villages (Tenerife) SA, a joint venture company in partnership with Aer Lingus España, which is building 100 apartments within the 40-acre, all overlooking the sea. Of these, 50 are built and a further 20 will be ready in July.

Of the first phase, 20 have been sold outright while the other 30 are being marketed on a time-share basis at prices ranging from £13,500 for a week in a one-bedroom apartment in low season, to £2,900 for a high season week in a two-bedroom unit.

Prices for phase two, all outright purchases, are from £28,500 for one-bedroom units and from £38,500 for two-bedroom units.

Details: International Property Marketing, Springfield Road, Hove, Sussex BN1 12 2PJ. Tel: Hove (0432) 56191.

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Trade 01-837 1752
Private 01-837 3333 or 3311

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COME AND LIVE in the heart of the city of Bath, and enjoy the delights of one of Europe's finest cities. Quality period house in a beautiful setting, close to the river, 5 minutes walk from the city centre. 12 rooms, 10 bedrooms, 10 bathrooms, 10 living rooms, 10 studies, 10 terraces, 10 gardens, 10 parking spaces. £125,000.

01-589 6616

NEAR BRISTOL

100% detached, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 living room, 1 study, 1 terrace, 1 garden, 1 parking space. £125,000.

01-589 6616

LOVELY 4 BEDROOM DETACHED BUNGALOW

1 bedroom flat for sale in a lovely Victorian building in a new location in the heart of Covent Garden. 125 year lease from £22,900.

01-836 0227

CAITHNESS ROAD W14

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01-381 6427

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Today's television and radio programmes

Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Daville

BBC 1

- 6.00 **Celestial AM**.
6.50 **Breakfast Time** with Frank Bough and Mike Smith. Weather at 6.55, 7.25, 7.55, 8.25 and 8.55; regional news, weather and travel at 6.57, 7.27, 7.57 and 8.27; national international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; sport at 7.20, 7.45 and 8.20; the Duke of Athol reviews the morning newspapers at 8.37. Plus, the new Top Twenty, and financial advice from Alison Mitchell. The guest is Gene Pitney.
9.20 **Celestial**. 10.30 **Play School**.
10.50 **Gharbar**. Magazine programme for Asian women. This week's edition includes Samira Mir discussing antenatal care with Dr A. Rashid Siddiqui, and an interview with Parninder Rana on her role as a link worker sponsored by the Asian Mother and Baby campaign. 11.15 **Celestial**.
1.00 **News After Noon** with Richard Whitmore and Frances Goodridge. The weather prospects come from Ian McCaslin. 1.27 **Regional News** (London and SE only). Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles. 1.30 **Mr Benn** (1). 1.45 **Celestial**.
2.15 **Racing from Goodwood**. Julian Wilson introduces coverage of four races - the Tom Cotton Handicap, Apprentice Championship (round five), the Clive Graham Stakes (3.00); the Schroder Life Predominance Stakes (3.55). The 4.05 race is on Sports Desk. 1.53 **Regional News** (not London).
3.55 **Lay on Five**, presented by Floella Benjamin and David Wood. 4.10 **The Wombles** (4). 4.15 **The Blackies**. Cartoon series. 4.35 **Take Two**, presented by Josephine Buchan. Two programmes are under discussion this week - Duncan Dares and Secrets until in the studio is Peter Duncan.
5.05 **John Craven's Newsworld**. 5.10 **Duncan Dares**. With Steve Good. Peter Duncan attempts to cross the Irish Sea in an amphibious Volkswagen.
5.35 **Glenn**. John is supposed to visit his father but only his luggage arrives.
6.00 **Michael Jackson's Wavelength** and Philip Hayton. Weather.
6.35 **London Plus**.
7.00 **Wogan**. The guests include Edward Heath.
7.40 **Hilary**. Comedy series starring Martin Caine as a television chat show researcher who, this week, has the task of persuading a lady to appear on the programme to discuss her love life (1).
8.10 **Dallas**. The evidence against Jenna looks to be watertight (Celestial).
9.00 **News with John Humphrys**. Weather.
9.25 **O.E.D.: Gini** - the Last Campbell. A documentary about Gini, the daughter of Donald and granddaughter of Malcolm Campbell, who has inherited her family's obsession with speed (see Choice).
9.55 **Sportnight** introduced by Harry Carpenter. The programme includes the final of the Greyhound TV Trophy from Monmouth Green, Wolverhampton; interviews with Chris and John Lloyd on what the future holds for them both; a preview of next Wednesday's European Cup final between Juventus and Liverpool in Brussels; and a report on England's World Cup game against Finland played this afternoon in Helsinki.
10.45 **Film: Prime Cut** (1972) starring Lee Marvin and Gene Hackman. Thriller about a mob's enticement who is sent to deal with the leader of a break-away faction of the gang who turns out to be as brutal as the mob's man. Directed by Michael Fichtel.

TV-am

- 6.15 **Good Morning Britain** presented by Anne Diamond and Henry Kelly. News with Jayne Lewis at 6.15, 6.30, 6.45, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; sport at 6.50 and 8.15; Popeye cartoon at 7.55; pop music at 7.54; video report at 8.40; behind the scenes at the Chelsea Flower Show at 9.05. The guests include Anna Massey.
9.25 **Thames news headlines**. 9.30 **For Schools: Religious Education**. 9.47 **Denmark and its capital, Copenhagen**. 10.04 **Sex education: courtship and intercourse**. 10.21 **The role of man and woman in relation to work**. 10.28 **The Currier Lane District**. 11.10 **The constituents of a village**. 11.22 **The history of the bow and arrow**. 11.40 **Continuity and change in a village**.
11.55 **But a Bush Dub**. An animated and up-dated version of the nursery rhyme, *The Grand Old Duke of York*. 12.00 **Tales from Fat Tulip's Garden**.
12.30 **Raw Energy**. Leslie and Susan Kenton continue their series on healthy eating with a recipe for salmon.
1.00 **News at One** with Leonard Parker. Weather. 1.20 **Thames news headlines**. 1.30 **A Country Practice**.
2.25 **On the Market**. Susan Brookings and Trevor Hyatt with the week's best market food buys. The guest cook is Jane Asher. 2.55 **Take the High Road**. Drama set in the Scottish highland estate of Glenlochard. 3.20 **Thames news headlines**. 3.25 **Sons and Daughters**.
3.55 **Football**. Finland versus England. Live coverage of the World Cup qualifying game in Helsinki. The commentator is Brian Moore with expert comment from former England player, Mike Channon.
5.55 **News with John Suchet**. 6.10 **Thames news**.
6.35 **Crossroads**. The executive chat receives its finishing touches.
7.00 **Arthur C. Clarke's World of Strange Powers**. In this week's edition Fairies, Planets and Fantastic Photographs are examined. The narrator is Anna Ford (Celestial).
7.30 **Coronation Street**. George Warden takes drastic steps to protect his reputation (Celestial).
8.00 **Film: Juggernaut** (1974) starring Richard Harris, Omar Sharif, Anthony Hopkins and David Hemmings. Thriller about a bomber, known as Juggernaut, who has planted seven explosive devices on a luxury cruise ship. Richard Harris and his team are parachuted to the liner in an attempt to trace and defuse the bombs which are timed to explode at dawn the following day. Directed by Richard Lester.
10.00 **News at Ten** with Alastair Burnet and Sandy Gall. Weather, followed by Thames news headlines.
10.30 **Midweek Sport Special**, presented by Jim Rosenthal. Reg Gutteridge is at the ringside in Reno, Nevada, for the fight that Larry Holmes hopes will take him nearer to the world title. Holmes' opponent is Carl 'The Truth' Williams. There are also highlights of this afternoon's World Cup football match in Helsinki between Finland and England; and the second leg of the UEFA Cup Final between Real Madrid and Videoton of Hungary.
12.00 **Gangster Greats**. Clips from classic sports of celebrated gangster films.
12.25 **Night Thoughts** with Rabbi Julia Neuberger.



Diana Rigg as Lady Dedlock: Bleak House, (BBC2, 9.00pm)

BBC 2

- 6.30 **Open University: The Oil Game**. 8.55 **Jumpers**, by Tom Stoppard. Ends at 7.20.
9.00 **Celestial**.
9.30 **Daytime on Two: Science: levers**. 10.00 **For the young**. 10.15 **Using CSE**. 10.30 **Using CSE**. 10.40 **Minister's problems**. 10.45 **Celestial**. 11.00 **Words and pictures**. 11.17 **A-level statistics: hypothesis testing**. 11.30 **A-level English: Chaucer - the Dreaming Poet**.
12.05 **Spanish conversation**. 12.30 **Celestial**. 1.28 **The export trade of Barbados**. 2.00 **Part one of a series on North American Indians**. 2.18 **Sex education: For the hard of hearing**. 2.40 **A wildlife garden** (Celestial).
3.00 **Celestial**.
3.50 **Racing from Goodwood** continued from BBC1. The Chichester Festival Theatre. 4.50 **Celestial**.
5.30 **News summary with subtitles**.
5.35 **Arthur Nagus Enjoys Deane Park**. Northamptonshire in the company of John Bly where among the delights they enjoy is the fine hammer beamed roof of the great hall (1).
6.00 **Film: The Damned Days of Klovna Jones** (1986) starring Robert Horton and Diane Baker. Escorting two prisoners accused of murder, Klovna Jones encounters bounty hunters, a family out for revenge, Indians on the warpath, and a schoolteacher. Directed by Alex March.
7.40 **Ebony**. The final programme of the series includes an investigation into the possibilities of black management in sport, in the light of the new chairman of the Sports Council, John Smith's declared aim to recruit as many black people as necessary to help in the running of sport; there is a sample of Socha music - a cross between soul and calypso; an interview with trumpeter Hugh Masekela; and a performance by the Socha dance group.
8.10 **The Chelsea Flower Show**. Peter Seabrook and Ian Titchmarsh are the guides around the grounds of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.
9.00 **Bleak House**. Episode seven of the eight-part dramatisation of Charles Dickens's novel and a member of the recent Socha Committee on multicultural education that rejected the idea of separate schools. Duncan now thinks that separate schools are the only answer to the problems of race.
9.00 **About Time**. Part two of John Berger's series examining aspects and concepts of time through the ages.
10.00 **Lost Grant** is offered the chance of an exclusive interview with a missing business tycoon. What's the catch?
11.00 **Voices**. South African novelist Nadine Gordimer in conversation with American critic Susan Sontag.
11.55 **The Lordships' House**. 12.10 **Celestial**.

CHANNEL 4

- 2.15 **Their Lordships' House**. A report of last night's highlights from the House of Lords's local council debate.
2.30 **Film: Chautauqua Girl** (1983). A Canadian made-for-television drama, set in the 1920s, about a rugged, lonely farmer who becomes captivated by a Chautauqua Girl, a woman chosen for her good looks to promote a travelling theatre which was something the only link the isolated community had with the outside world. Starring Janet-Laine Green and Terence Kell. Part 2 (of 30) of the drama set in 19th century Brazil and Laura decides to tell Alvaro the whole story of her circumstances and about the murder of his wife and Tobias. Followed by *Fantastico*. The lights and sounds of modern Brazil.
5.30 **Farming on Four**. This week's edition examines the particular problems of farming on the urban fringe, in particular those farmers coping with life in the shadow of Milton Keynes.
6.00 **Wales: Landscape and Legend**. Part one of a new 12-part programme series celebrating the glories of the Welsh landscape with readings from Welsh legends performed in Welsh translation by David Phillips and Philip Madoc with Delyth Wyn and Gwyn Bech.
6.30 **The Heritage Game**. John Julius Norwich returns to Berkeley Castle in Gloucestershire, the home of Mr and Mrs Berkeley. David Phillips is the celebrity putting his knowledge of antiques to the test, along with the Sothby's expert Derek Shrub.
7.00 **Channel Four News**.
7.30 **Comment**. The political slot this week is filled by SDP politician, Michael Ffrench MP for Portsmouth South. *Loosing Track*. A new series that examines the development of Britain's transport policy over the past 150 years, beginning with the railways covering the period from the 1820s to the 1900s.
8.30 **Diverse Reports**. Schools. As presented by Carlton Duncan, headmaster of a Bradford secondary school and a member of the recent Socha Committee on multicultural education that rejected the idea of separate schools. Duncan now thinks that separate schools are the only answer to the problems of race.
9.00 **About Time**. Part two of John Berger's series examining aspects and concepts of time through the ages.
10.00 **Lost Grant** is offered the chance of an exclusive interview with a missing business tycoon. What's the catch?
11.00 **Voices**. South African novelist Nadine Gordimer in conversation with American critic Susan Sontag.
11.55 **The Lordships' House**. 12.10 **Celestial**.

CHOICE

to prove to herself, and others, that she is made of the same stuff as her dead progenitors. Her luck, however, needs to be much better than that of her friend and co-driver, Mike Standring, is himself blessed with luck.
● **RADIO CHOICE: MRS MOFFAT, MRS MOFFAT**. Valerie Windsor's *Afternoon Play* (Radio 3, 5.00pm), follows a well-worn trail but still manages to come up with something original in its examination of the disintegrating potential of the human mind. I should like to see Gearing's two-hander *GRUDLOCK* (Radio 3, 7.30pm). Its denouement caught me completely by surprise.
Peter Daville

Radio 4

- 5.55 **Shipping**. 6.00 **News Briefing**. 6.10 **Farming**. 6.25 **Prayer**.
6.30 **Today**, including 6.30, 7.30, 8.30 **News**. 8.45 **Business News**. 8.55, 9.55, 10.55 **Weather**. 7.20, 8.00 **News**. 7.35, 8.25 **Sport**. 7.45 **Thought for the Day**. 8.35 **Pediment**. 8.57 **World in Transit**.
9.00 **News**.
9.05 **Midweek: Little Pevensie**.
10.00 **News: Gardener's Question**.
10.05 **Time**. Members of Farming Gardening Society, Northern Ireland, question the experts (1).
10.30 **Morning Show**. The Ghost of an Idea by H. R. Keating. Reader: Sheila Mitchell.
10.45 **Today's Special** (New Every Morning, page 80).
11.00 **News**.
11.05 **Travels**. John, Dick, Tawne, CC, shares a debate on alternative ways of funding local government (1).
11.48 **English Now**. Randolph Quirk and David Crystal on the new 'Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language' (1).
12.00 **News: You and Yours**. Consumer Affairs. 12.05 **Weather**.
12.07 **The Motorist**. Six-part serial by thriller writer Berkeley. Member of the Abbey. 12.15 **The World At One**.
1.40 **The Archers**. 1.55 **Shipping**.
2.00 **News: Woman's Hour**. Includes an interview with Clive Thornton, formerly of Mirror Group. 2.15 **News**.
2.30 **The Afternoon Play: Mrs Moffat**. Mrs Moffat, by Valerie Windsor. With Patricia Dwyer and Patrick Stewart. (Radio 3, 7.30pm).
3.00 **The Afternoon Play: Mrs Moffat**. Mrs Moffat, by Valerie Windsor. With Patricia Dwyer and Patrick Stewart. (Radio 3, 7.30pm).
3.30 **The Afternoon Play: Mrs Moffat**. Mrs Moffat, by Valerie Windsor. With Patricia Dwyer and Patrick Stewart. (Radio 3, 7.30pm).
4.00 **News: File On 4**. Major issues at home and abroad. 4.05 **News: File On 4**. Major issues at home and abroad. 4.10 **News: File On 4**. Major issues at home and abroad. 4.15 **News: File On 4**. Major issues at home and abroad. 4.20 **News: File On 4**. Major issues at home and abroad. 4.25 **News: File On 4**. Major issues at home and abroad. 4.30 **News: File On 4**. Major issues at home and abroad. 4.35 **News: File On 4**. Major issues at home and abroad. 4.40 **News: File On 4**. Major issues at home and abroad. 4.45 **News: File On 4**. Major issues at home and abroad. 4.50 **News: File On 4**. Major issues at home and abroad. 4.55 **News: File On 4**. Major issues at home and abroad. 5.00 **News: File On 4**. Major issues at home and abroad. 5.05 **News: File On 4**. Major issues at home and abroad. 5.10 **News: File On 4**. Major issues at home and abroad. 5.15 **News: File On 4**. Major issues at home and abroad. 5.20 **News: File On 4**. 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Tebbit accuses Pym group of seeking easy life

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

A strong counter-attack on Mr Francis Pym and the doubters in the Conservative Party was made last night by Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Industry, who said the Government's critics favoured the soft option and the easy life.

Levelling his own charge of political cowardice against the unnamed adversaries in his sights, he said many of the country's problems could be traced back to the reluctance of previous governments to take the difficult decisions and risk unpopularity in the short term.

Those who care more about the state of the opinion polls than the state of the nation would preach the same message today," he said.

Both Mr Pym and Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy and the Cabinet's leading dissident, served in a previous government, as did Mrs Margaret Thatcher. Mr Tebbit, who did not, was able with a freedom denied to the Prime Minister to dismiss the Health, Wilson and Callaghan administrations in one phrase.

He would not return to "the failed policies of the 1970s", he said. "We tried incomes policies, corporatism, even socialism and none of them worked."

Leading article, page 15

Saviours of the sea honoured



Bravery rewarded: Four Royal National Lifeboat Institution men, decorated for gallantry at a ceremony yesterday at the Royal Festival Hall, London, on board the RNLI's latest Tyne-class boat, which was moored at Festival Pier. The four are (from left) Coxswain Donald McKay, of Wick,

Calthness (bronze medal); Coxswain David Clement, Ilfracombe, north Devon (bronze); Coxswain Mechanic Peter Mitchell, Lizard-Cadgwith, Cornwall (bronze); and Coxswain John Martin, Hastings, East Sussex (bronze). Photograph: John Manning.

Brittan heckled by prison officers

Continued from page 1
places would be found by speeding the flow of inmates to Weyland, a new prison in Norfolk, to be officially opened next week. But most space will be found by other means.

Wetherby, a youth custody centre in Yorkshire to be built on a site closed for refurbishing for use again in some years time but is now to be kept open.

A new wing is to be opened at Dartmoor, Morton Hall, on the borders of Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire, mothballed as a former hospital, is being reopened as a training prison in the second highest security category to hold about 150 inmates.

Other plans include bringing into use two new establishments earlier than intended, Stocken in Leicestershire, and Thorn Cross, Lancashire.

The 240 officers are being recruited earlier than expected out of 4,000 additional staff to the service by the end of 1988, principally to man new establishments. The prospect of an end to overcrowding by 1990 was a real one, Mr Brittan said.

Mr Lydiate, branch secretary at Maidstone Prison which holds lifers and other long term prisoners, said the branch had served notice of industrial action on the governor because of staff shortages. The Prison Department said that officers who did not obey instructions would be sent home without pay.

Williams denies discredit to Foot or Healey

Mrs Shirley Williams, president of the Social Democratic Party, denied yesterday that she had meant to imply anything discreditable in her comments on Sunday about attempts made by Mr Michael Foot and Mr Denis Healey to persuade Mr William Rodgers and herself not to leave the Labour Party in 1981 (George Hill writes).

"I don't think it was discreditable, but clearly they were very anxious to keep us in the party," she said, after Mr Foot's description of it as a "misrepresentation" of her claims on Sunday that offers of high party position were made as incentives to stay.

Letter from Moscow Comrade Crank on the end of the line

The news that the Soviet Union is to quintuple the number of telephones by the end of the century - announced in *Pravda* the other day - strikes fear in the hearts of Western reporters here, even though the telephone is an essential tool of the news business.

The country certainly needs the Politburo's new communications programme, since there are only 25 million phones for a population of just over 276 million.

The Moscow telephone system was installed in 1882 by Messrs Bell and could do with an overhaul, not to mention the reintroduction of direct dialling overseas (abolished two years ago).

On the other hand, quintupling the number of phones means quintupling the number of wrong numbers and nuisance calls. At *The Times* we are asked at least once a day whether we repair televisions or sell sausages (the answer in both cases is no, regrettably).

Even more peculiar to Russia than wrong numbers are the nuisance calls from patently unbalanced individuals who phone Western correspondents at all hours with rambling and incoherent tales of injustice, and sometimes accuse you on the street.

Some Westerners believe such incidents are officially inspired or encouraged just to make the life of the foreign reporter more difficult. But the most common explanation is that Russian eccentrics have no one else to turn to. Like any other society, the Soviet Union has its fair share of eccentrics, but here they have no legitimate outlet.

Every utterance and activity is strictly controlled, and fringe behaviour is frowned on. Instead of phoning Moscow radio, writing to *Pravda* or standing for some lost cause in the Supreme Soviet elections, your average Soviet nut tends to pick up the phone and dial a Western correspondent. One British reporter used to call Moscow "the fruitcake capital of the world".

How the callers get hold of the numbers is a mystery.

Richard Owen

Mansion House Square

1988: Public exhibition of the £25 million scheme at the Royal Exchange. Mr Rudolph Palumbo (Pym's father) says that Lloyd's Bank Overseas Division will use the building as its headquarters. Lord Holford, who worked on the design with the late Sir John, agrees that the plan is controversial and it receives a mixed response from the public.

1988: The Court of Common Council agrees in principle to the scheme, but decides not to grant planning permission "at this stage for a development which would leave for a considerable period in incomplete square", thus effectively blocking the plan. It says that the developer must have control of the site so that work could be carried out as a continuous staged operation. The GLC, supported by the Royal Fine Art Commission, says that the lower should be no taller than 200ft. A poll of people visiting the exhibition the previous year shows "a fairly substantial majority" in favour.

1988: After 20 years spent acquiring the site, Mr Peter Palumbo submits a new planning application, to praise Sir John Sumner, the architectural historian, and to draw from conservationists. By July, Mr Palumbo owns 12 of the 18 freeholds and 545 of the 548 leaseholds on the site. Building costs are now estimated at £30 million.

1988: Inspector's report to Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, recommends the scheme. The *Times* discloses in April that the Prime Minister is taking an interest in his decision. She subsequently declines to give her views on the scheme, but is later seen to be interfering in Mr Jenkin's decision (which would be illegal), although admitting she visited the Department of the Environment to inspect the model and plans.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

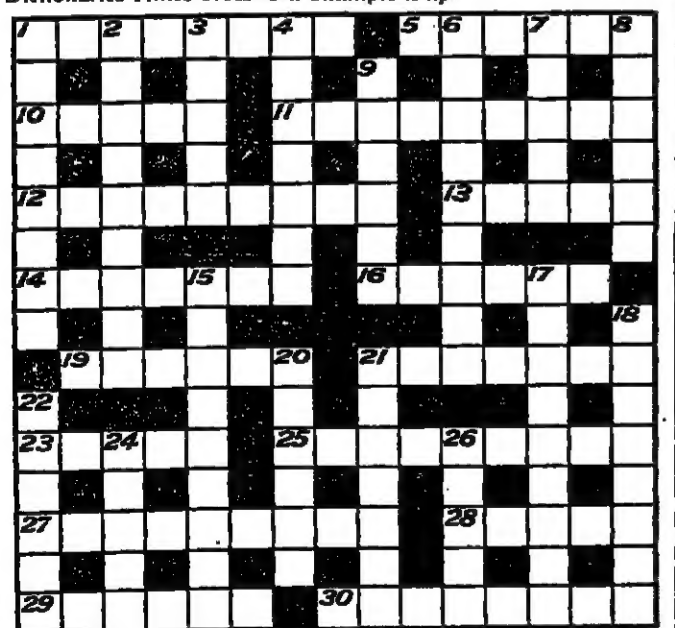
The Queen presents new Colours to the 1st and 2nd Battalions Coldstream Guards on Horse Guards Parade, 11.30. The Duchess of Gloucester attends the presentation.

The Prince of Wales visits The Crossway Housing Co-operative, Crossway Court, Gosforth, 10.15; and visits Netherton Street, Elswick, Newcastle upon Tyne, 11.15.

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, opens "By Beat of Drum", an exhibition to commemorate the British Army, Ravens-

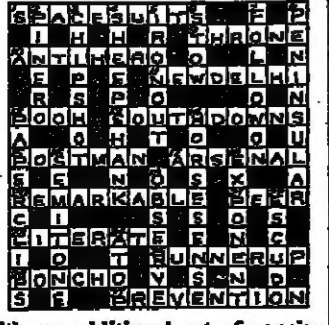
The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,743

This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 10 per cent of the competitors at this year's Glasgow regional final of the Collins Dictionary Times Crossword Championship.



- ACROSS
- 1 Trial by television - watch for the reaction here! (4-4).
 - 2 Vague amount to take away from a Chinese? (3-3).
 - 3 Flower next to see (2-3).
 - 4 Buzzer to be sounded by beadle (6-3).
 - 5 Disease affecting horses' stifles (9).
 - 6 A place to stay without books is little short of hell (5).
 - 7 Arranged a centre for replay (12-1).
 - 8 Square in Melbourne (6).
 - 9 Aim in a high church feature (6).
 - 10 OK for one pleasing to the ear (7).
 - 11 Country without a maiden lady (5).
 - 12 Tempestuous battling by Pope, possibly (9).
 - 13 Clothed like those who are probably used to being dressed (9).
 - 14 Eager to have love in abundance (5).
 - 15 Cover extraordinary seance (6).
 - 16 A stone made that mark, yes (8).
- DOWN
- 1 Bags a pair, usually (8).
 - 2 Diaphanous cape offered in Kentish Town (9).
 - 3 Possibly a plain-sounding name for antiques (5).
 - 4 New Bible with an Old Testament? It's a collector's item! (7).
 - 5 Those employed in Socratic mills, according to Isaac Watts? (4-3).
 - 6 What climbing, Smollett lost one shoe (5)?
 - 7 Cereal and nut mixture for mule is mashed (6).
 - 8 Told jokes, perhaps, admittedly second-hand (6).
 - 9 Site prescribed what men like as a lion perches (5-4).
 - 10 No room underneath the Arches for this policeman (8).
 - 11 It contained a mysterious Russian riddle, said Churchill (6).
 - 12 The first Scotsman to surface? (7).
 - 13 Some say Whig country extends to half Kent (6).
 - 14 What can all I ac? Part of the hip (5).
 - 15 Formerly a light weight in demand (5).

Solution of Puzzle No 16,742



The Natural History of Central Region

Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum, 40 Albert Place, Stirling; Wed to Sun 2 to 5 (ends Sept 8).

Paintings and drawings by Geoffrey Mearns, Fiona Millar, Fay Lewellyn and sculpture by Andrew Wain: Linton Court Gallery, Duke St, Stirling, North York; Tues, Fri Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 5, closed Mon, Thurs and Wed (ends June 16).

A City at War: Birmingham 1939-1945: Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Sq, Birmingham; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Sept 1).

Carte de Visite: photographs from the 1860's to 1890's; Stills Gallery, 105 High St, Edinburgh; Tues to Sat 12.30 to 6 (ends June 3).

The Whistler Inheritance: 60 prints selected from Glasgow University's collection; Hunterian Art Gallery, Glasgow University, Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 9.30 to 1 (ends June 8).

Clock and watchmaking today; Prescott Museum, 34 Church St, Prescott, Merseyside; Tues to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends June 23).

Music
Concert by the Orwell Ensemble: Countess of Huntingdon Church, Ex, Camb, 7.30.
Concert by the Northern Festival Organ: Birmingham Town Hall, 1.
Organ recital by Andrew Millington: Malvern Priory, 7.30.
Blindfold Music: Week: Organ recital by Michael Emery, 1.10; and a concert by the Cornish Music Group, 7.30; Bladford Parish Church, Dorset.
Deilton and Dowland Festival: Harpichord recital by Sharon Gould; Hilliers, Dorset, 8.
Concert by the Scottish National Orchestra: The Cinema, East Kilbride, 7.30.
Schubert Festival: Piano recital by Benjamin Frith, 1; and a piano recital by Bernard Roberts, 7.45; Crucible Studio, Sheffield.
Brighton Festival: Recital by Michael Pearce (baritone) and Jane Dodd (piano); Concert by the Chillingham String Quartet; Garden Court, 7.45.

Talks, Lectures
The Impressionist Revolution by Andrew Greg; Laing Art Gallery, Highnam Place, Newcastle upon Tyne, 12.30.
Daddy, by John Dick; National Gallery of Scotland, The Mound, Edinburgh, 1.

Chelsea show

The Chelsea Flower Show is open to the public from today until Friday, May 24.

Times of opening and admission charges: Today: 8am to 3.30pm, £10 entry fee, and 3.30pm to 8pm, £8; Tomorrow: 8am to 3.30pm, £8, and 3.30pm to 8pm, £6; Friday: 8am to 3pm, £6.

New books - hardback

The Library Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:
Alessandro Alighieri, by Jennifer Montagu (Yale, two volumes, £55)
Alfred Gilbert, by Richard Dornett (Yale, £19.95)
East Angles, by D. G. Scragg (Corgi, £10.95)
George Goss, by Hans Hess (Yale, £25, paperback, £10.95)
Heritage, Civilization and the Jews, by Abba Eban (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £14.95)
An Ordinary Man, by Dirk Bogarde (Corgi, £10.95)
Nineteenth-Century Sculpture, by H. W. Janson (Thames & Hudson, £25)
The Splendours of The Raj, British Architecture in India 1600-1847, by Philip Davies (John Murray, £25)
The Country House Remembered, Recollections of Life Between the Wars, edited by Merin Waters (Routledge & Kegan Paul, £12.95)
The Politics of British Foreign Policy in the Era of Disraeli and Gladstone, by Marvin Swartz (Macmillan, £25)

Roads

Wales and West: A449: Contrail at Mitchell Trow between Monmouth and Raglan in Gwent. A5: Single line traffic (24 hours). Gwynedd: temporary lights S of Bethesda and at Capel Curig. A31: Subway construction at Tricker's between Farnham and Ringwood, Dorset.

The North: M6: Lanes closed on both carriageways between junctions 32 (M55) and 33 (A6) Lancaster Sp1 access to Forton services maintained; care required. M63: Resurfacing between junction 7 and 9 Greater Manchester; slip roads at junction 8 (Sale) closed. A534: Major resurfacing work at junction 5 of Ormsley, 54-56. A534: Major resurfacing work at junction 5 of Ormsley, 54-56. A534: Major resurfacing work at junction 5 of Ormsley, 54-56.

The South: M74: Southbound carriageway closed between junction 1 (Larkhill) to Lanark. A2: Southbound carriageway closed between junction 1 (Larkhill) to Lanark. A2: Southbound carriageway closed between junction 1 (Larkhill) to Lanark.

Information supplied by the A.A.

Best sherries

In a blind tasting of 22 fino sherries, the following were judged outstanding:
Don Zelle Very Old Fino (Harrods, Fortnum & Mason, Grafton Harris);
Brighton Festival: Recital by Michael Pearce (baritone) and Jane Dodd (piano); Concert by the Chillingham String Quartet; Garden Court, 7.45.
Tasmin Little (violin) and Vanessa Lanchbery (piano), Library Theatre, 1; and concert by the Airedale Symphony Orchestra with Ian Flint (piano), St George's Hall, 7.30; Bradford.

Talks, Lectures
The Impressionist Revolution by Andrew Greg; Laing Art Gallery, Highnam Place, Newcastle upon Tyne, 12.30.
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Portfolio

Portfolio - how to play
Monday-Monday record your daily Portfolio.
Add these together to determine your total return.
If your total includes the published weekly dividend figure, you have won tonight's £1,000.
No responsibility can be accepted for failure to contact the claims office for any reason within the stated hours.
The above instructions are applicable to both daily and weekly dividend claims.

Some Times Portfolio cards include minor corrections in the instructions on the reverse side. These cards are not invalid.
The winning of £1,000 and 3 has been confirmed from earlier winners for clarification. The Game itself is not affected and will continue to be played in exactly the same way as before.

Royal Mausoleum
The Royal Mausoleum at Frogmore, where Queen Victoria and other members of the Royal Family are buried, will be open to the public today from 11am to 4pm. The Mausoleum, in Windsor Great Park, is opened annually for one day only and admission is free.

Weather

The trough of low pressure over S England and Wales will persist, drifting NW.

London, SE, central S, SW, NW, central N England, Midlands, Wales, Channel Islands: Thundery showers some bright or sunny intervals; winds variable light; max temp 18C (65F).
East Angles: S, SE, SW, NW, central N England, Midlands, Wales, Channel Islands: Thundery showers some bright or sunny intervals; winds variable light; max temp 18C (65F).
NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Rainy cloudy light rain or drizzle at times; wind N moderate; max temp 12C (54F).
Wales and West: A449: Contrail at Mitchell Trow between Monmouth and Raglan in Gwent. A5: Single line traffic (24 hours). Gwynedd: temporary lights S of Bethesda and at Capel Curig. A31: Subway construction at Tricker's between Farnham and Ringwood, Dorset.

The Daily Star, commenting on the debate in the Commons on shop opening hours and Sunday trading, says the only surprise is that it has taken "our law makers" so long to reform the Shop Hours Act. It adds: "There is no doubt that shoppers want the changes, and the customer is always supposed to be right."

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The Mirror says: "For years, the things of the terraces have escaped with stern warnings but soft sentences. Now the punishment handed out to the Cambridge rioters sets a new trend."

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Transport Bill, completion of remaining stages.
Lords (2.15): Debate on tourism and on the Arab-Israeli dispute. Tobacco Products (Advertising) Bill, second reading.

Anniversaries

Birds: William Sturgis, electrical engineer, Whitlington, Lancashire, 1783; Richard Wagner, Leipzig, 1813; Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Edinburgh, 1859.
Deaths: Constance the Great, Roman Emperor 312-337; Nicomedia (Izmit, Turkey), 337; Maria Edgeworth, Edgeworthstown, Ireland, 1849; Alessandro Manzoni, poet, novelist and patriot, Milan, 1872; Victor Hugo, Paris, 1885; Augusta Gregory, Lady Gregory, playwright, poet and director of the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, Coole Park, Gort, Ireland, 1932.

The pound

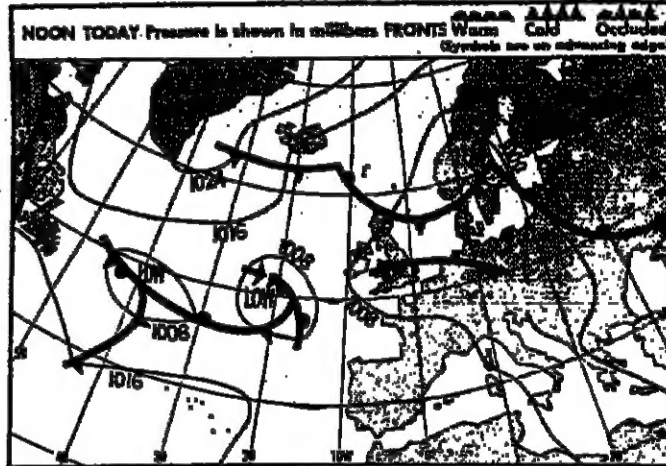
	Bank	Bank
Australia	1.82	1.82
Canada	1.20	1.20
France	1.20	1.20
Germany	1.20	1.20
Italy	1.20	1.20
Japan	1.20	1.20
Netherlands	1.20	1.20
Portugal	1.20	1.20
Spain	1.20	1.20
Sweden	1.20	1.20
Switzerland	1.20	1.20
USA	1.20	1.20

Highest and lowest

Yesterday's highest and lowest temperatures: London, 19C (65F); lowest: day max: Nottingham, 12C (54F); night min: 8C (46F); highest: night min: 12C (54F).

Lighting-up time

London 9.25 pm to 4.25 am
Bristol 9.25 pm to 4.25 am
Cardiff 9.25 pm to 4.25 am
Edinburgh 9.25 pm to 4.25 am
Glasgow 9.25 pm to 4.25 am
Liverpool 9.25 pm to 4.25 am
Manchester 9.25 pm to 4.25 am
Newcastle 9.25 pm to 4.25 am
Nottingham 9.25 pm to 4.25 am
Preston 9.25 pm to 4.25 am
Sheffield 9.25 pm to 4.25 am
Southampton 9.25 pm to 4.25 am
Stoke-on-Trent 9.25 pm to 4.25 am
Sunderland 9.25 pm to 4.25 am
Tottenham 9.25 pm to 4.25 am
Wolverhampton 9.25 pm to 4.25 am
Wrexham 9.25 pm to 4.25 am



High tides			
Location	AM	PM	HT
London Bridge	4.17	10.17	10.17
Abbeystead	3.32	9.32	9.32
Abbeystead	3.32	9.32	9.32
Abbeystead	3.32	9.32	9.32
Abbeystead	3.32	9.32	9.32
Abbeystead	3.32	9.32	9.32
Abbeystead	3.32	9.32	9.32
Abbeystead	3.32	9.32	9.32
Abbeystead	3.32	9.32	9.32
Abbeystead	3.32	9.32	9.32

Around Britain			
Location	Sun	Rain	Max
London	0.8	0.8	10.17
London	0.8	0.8	10.17
London	0.8	0.8	10.17
London	0.8	0.8	10.17
London	0.8	0.8	10.17
London	0.8	0.8	10.17
London	0.8	0.8	10.17
London	0.8	0.8	10.17
London	0.8	0.8	10.17
London	0.8	0.8	10.17

Abroad			
Location	Sun	Rain	Max
London	0.8	0.8	10.17
London	0.8	0.8	10.17
London	0.8	0.8	10.17
London	0.8	0.8	10.17
London	0.8	0.8	10.17
London	0.8	0.8	10.17
London	0.8	0.8	10.17
London	0.8	0.8	10.17
London	0.8	0.8	10.17
London	0.8	0.8	10.17

سكراين المرحلي